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SFRY Presents Peace Initiative to Iraq

LD1901175291 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1642 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, January 19 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav Charge d'Affaires in Baghdad Vlado Kohut on Saturday presented to under-secretary in the Iraqi Foreign Ministry Nizar Hamdun Yugoslavia's positions on the steps to be taken for halting the hostilities and at least preventing the Gulf conflict from spreading.

Hamdun promised to acquaint the Iraqi leadership at once with the Yugoslav positions.

The meeting was a part of Yugoslavia's lively diplomatic activity to help avoid an escalation of the Gulf war.

As also stated in Belgrade today, Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar expressed to Iraqi Ambassador Wahbi al-Qarashalli the Yugoslav Government's readiness to make efforts with a view to stopping the hostilities.

Foreign Secretary Loncar has kept directly in contact wih his counterparts in a number of countries since the outbreak of the war. As stated, all his conversations over the past few days with Foreign Minister Ghozali of Algeria, Velayati of Iran, Abdel-Maguid of Egypt, Shukla of India, Figueredo of Venezuela, Dumas of France and Poos of Luxembourg (who is also president of the European Community) focused on finding the platform for ending the war. The necessity of applying the Security Council resolutions was stressed in every occasion.

Through Austria, which represents Yugoslavia's interests in Israel, Yugoslavia has sent the Israeli Government an appeal to refrain from joining in the armed conflict.

It was also stated that ambassador in the Yugoslav Foreign Secretariat Dragoslav Pejic was flying to Algeria and Tunisia on Sunday as special envoy of Foreign Secretary Loncar. The visits are aimed at "direct exchanges of views with the initiators of some of the latest peace initiatives."

Contacts Between SFRY, Iraq Continue

LD1801192891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1839 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, January 18 (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia, in its role as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, will continue activities aimed at ending the Gulf war and at finding a peaceful and political solution to the problem of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, TANJUG has learned from diplomatic circles.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar is in permanent telephone consultations with foreign ministers of the nonaligned countries and some EC countries and with the UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar.

Contacts between Yugoslavia and Iraq are being carried out through the embassies in Baghdad and Belgrade.

Within the framework of efforts aimed at setting up peace in the Gulf, Yugoslavia has appealed several times to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to withdraw his troops from Kuwait, without which there will be no end to the Gulf war.

On the very eve of war, Yugoslavia, as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, sent such an appeal. After war had broken out, Yugoslav State Presidency President Borisav Jovic and Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar repeated the appeal.

Perez de Cuellar Appeals For Gulf Peace Efforts

LD2101175191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1720 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, 21 January (TANJUG)—TANJUG has learned that UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar and Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar have just exchanged views by phone on present ideas and activities designed to find a way out of the present situation in the Gulf.

During their conversation the UN secretary general appealed to Yugoslavia to continue its efforts and actions in its capacity as chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, particularly toward Iraq. The secretary general supports the search for a way out on a principled basis, regardless of the huge difficulties imposed by the war.

Perez de Cuellar again praised Yugoslavia for the efforts it has invested so far in its attempts to settle the Gulf crisis.

SFRY Maintains Nonaligned Contact on Gulf War

LD2001234891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1911 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 20 (TANJUG) - Yugoslav diplomatic and military representatives in Baghdad are in permanent contact with the Iraqi Government, keeping it informed about the Yugoslav and other initiatives in seeking an acceptable solution for a truce in the Gulf war, Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Budimir Loncar said here today.

Loncar told TANJUG's diplomatic editor that the initiatives of topical interest at present are those launched by Algeria, India, the Soviet Union, the Maghreb countries and Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasir 'Arafat.

They all urge an end of hostilities, with a previous announcement by Iraq of its readiness to withdraw from Kuwait.

Loncar recalled that as the foreign secretary of Yugoslavia, the current chairman of the Nonaligned Movement, he was in contact with his counterparts in Algeria, Iran, Egypt, India, Venezuela, France and the foreign minister of Luxembourg, the current president of the European Community.

He also confirmed that he was in permanent contact with the foreign ministers of all permanent members of the U.N. Security Council.

All these contacts are aimed at paving the way for implementing the U.N. Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 660 calling for Iraq's immediate withdrawal from Kuwait.

On the first day of the Gulf war, Yugoslavia's State Presidency and government appealed to the Iraqi leadership to manifest its readiness for withdrawal from Kuwait.

"We believe this to be a prerequisite for truce and the basis for resolving the problem by political means", explained Loncar. He added that Yugoslavia had expressed regret and concern over the Iraqi missile attack on Israel, and had appealed to the Israeli Government to refrain from retaliating as it would result in an escalation of the conflict.

Loncar said that the Yugoslav diplomatic and military representatives in Baghdad had been reduced to a minimum and that diplomatic activities were evolving under extremely difficult conditions.

He also said that about 8,000 Yugoslavs had been evacuated from Iraq over a very short period of time and that the evacuation was underway of the last group of 35 people, who are to return home via Iran.

Yugoslav 'Diplomatic Initiatives' on Gulf Reviewed

LD2001161291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1448 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, 20 Jan (TANJUG)—Although working under extremely difficult circumstances, the SFRY Embassy and military mission in Baghdad are in contact with the Iraqi Government, which is being presented with Yugoslav initiatives and is expected to react accordingly—Budimir Loncar, federal secretary for foreign affairs, told TANJUG diplomatic editor Stevan Cordas.

At this moment, the head of the Yugoslav diplomatic service added, a number of diplomatic initiatives supported by Yugoslavia are in circulation. These are the initiatives of Algeria, India, the Soviet Union, the Maghreb countries, and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat. The gist of them is the demand for a temporary cessation of hostilities conditioned by Iraq's prior announcement of its readiness to withdraw from Kuwait. To this effect, Loncar said, new instructions have been sent to our embassies, particularly our charge d'affaires in Baghdad.

The federal secretary for foreign affairs also noted that since the outbreak of the armed conflict in the Gulf, Yugoslavia has launched a number of diplomatic initiatives to halt it and prevent further devastation, suffering, and human casualties from occurring.

As early as on the first day of the war, the stance of Yugoslavia, in its own right as well as in its capacity as president of the Nonaligned Movement, was made clear through the statements of the president of the SFRY Presidency and the Yugoslav Government. The gist of this stand, Budimir Loncar stressed, is its appeal to the Iraqi leadership to demonstrate its readiness to withdraw from Kuwait, which is the principal precondition for the cessation of hostilities and the basis for solving the problem by political means.

In the federal secretary's words, the Yugoslav Government's statement has been widely presented to all the members of the Nonaligned Movement, the permanent members of the Security Council, and other international bodies. In spite of the escalation of military action, Yugoslavia has continued intensive diplomatic activities, and the federal secretary has acquainted the Iraqi leadership with Yugoslavia's readiness to become involved as much as possible in stopping the military operations.

We have reiterated our appeal to the Iraqi leadership that it is in the interest of Iraq, all countries in the region, and world peace that Iraq decide on withdrawing its troops from Kuwait. According to Yugoslavia, that represents the only precondition for a fresh involvement by peacemaking forces to resolve the present crisis.

At the same time, Budimir Loncar stressed, Yugoslavia expresses its regret and concern in connection with the Iraqi missile attack on Israel, and appeals to the Israeli Government to show restraint and not take retaliatory measures to avoid further escalation of conflicts.

Following first news on the start of hostilities in the Gulf, the Yugoslav foreign minister intensified contacts with his colleagues in Algeria, Iran, Egypt, India, Venezuela, France, and the chairman of the European Community, the Luxembourg minister. The federal secretary is also in constant contact with the ministers of permanent members of the UN Security Council and a number of other countries.

The aim of all these talks, Loncar said, is to seek an acceptable bases for averting the war. He also underlined the need for the observance of a united demand from the international community—in other words, that Resolution 660 of the Security Council be implemented, which calls for an unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait.

Stressing that the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs took necessary measures from the very start of the Gulf crisis for the protection of our citizens in Iraq and in Middle East countries, Loncar recalled that 8,000 Yugoslav citizens were evacuated from Kuwait in a very short period of time. At this moment, Loncar said, we have in Iraq only the most necessary embassy staff and military mission to cover our diplomatic activities, and adequate security measures have been taken for their protection. After the Iranian Government gave its permission, we evacuated the remaining group of 35 Yugoslav workers from Iraq to Iran. Their transport from Iran to Yugoslavia is underway, concluded the Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar.

Government Assesses Gulf War, Foreign Policy

AU1801203291 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] At its meeting today, the Council of Ministers considered developments in the Persian Gulf zone and their international repercussions and some issues concerning relations between our state and other countries.

The government heard the report of Foreign Minister Reis Malile on the situation created in the Persian Gulf and the Middle East following the start of the military action against Iraq undertaken by the multinational forces authorized by the United Nations. The standpoint of the Albanian Government has been, and remains, to condemn Iraq's aggression against, and invasion of, Kuwait, and to support a way of resolving the crisis in the region through negotiaitons. The continuation and escalation of the conflict would have very serious global consequences.

The Council of Ministers drew attention to the fact that the situation that has arisen cannot fail to affect our country. In particular, its influence exacerbates the situation regarding the prices of raw materials such as oil, metals, and imported food products, which will require additional hard currency resources. Difficulties are also being created for the normal conduct of economic cooperation agreements with countries of the region. Under such conditions, mobilization and special responsibility is required from everybody to find new resources to alleviate the influence of the Gulf crisis on our economy. To guarantee the normal supply of foodstuffs for the population and to properly administer the necessary reserves that have been created, the retail organizations and the financial inspectorate should take special measures to control distribution throughout the country and to eliminate the irregular activities of speculators and wheeler-dealers on the market.

The meeting was also informed of the results of the visit of Greek Prime Minister Konstandinos Mitsotakis to our country. The Council of Ministers assessed this visit as successful and as a contribution to the further development of relations between our countries economically, politically, and in other areas of common interest. As was also expressed in the joint Albanian-Greek communique, the positive conclusion of the talks showed that Albania and Greece are determined to strengthen bilateral cooperation to further the expansion of friendly relations and peace and security in the Balkans and Europe. The Council of Ministers was also informed about the visit that the Albanian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Reis Malile will shortly pay to the PRC at the invitation of the Chinese foreign minister. It pointed out that our country's relations with China are developing on the path of friendship and that the aim of this visit is to increase cooperation in all fields. In particular, it was said that opportunities exist to further develop bilateral cooperation and economic exchanges.

The Council of Ministers also laid down tasks for further efforts which must be made to expand relations with European countries, both bilaterally and within the framework of the CSCE processes and integration in the continent.

Workers Protests Cause Nationwide Paralysis

LD2101182391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1759 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Ohrid, 21 Jan (TANJUG)—Despite an appeal by Albanian leader Ramiz Alia, calling on workers to refrain from strikes in the period up to 1 May, workers' protests have paralyzed the country. The town most affected today is Tirana where, because of a strike by local transport workers and the taxi service, thousands of people failed to turn up for work this morning, Albanian TV reported.

A wave of strikes has also hit the industrial town of Korcu, while in Durres dockers have been joined in protest by other workers.

The fact that the Council of Ministers—i.e. the Albanian Government—met today in urgent session indicates that the situation is far from harmless.

The government members drew attention to general chaos in the economy and asked the National Assembly presidium to urgently discuss and adopt a draft strike law which has already been prepared.

Alternative parties have joined in demands for the law to be urgently adopted.

Council of Ministers Urges Approval of Strike Law

AU2101215091 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 2100 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] At its special meeting today, the Council of Ministers considered the increasingly tense situation being created in the economy as a result of the continuing work stoppages by strikers in some transportation enterprises in the districts of Korce, Durres, and Tirana which are of great importance for the normal conduct of the country's economic life. It stated that the failure to heed the calls of political forces not to hold strikes until 1 May 1991 has harmed supplies of food and other essential goods to the people, has disrupted urban transportation and prevented working people from going to work, and has disturbed supplies of raw materials to enterprises.

The Council of Ministers called on all organizations of society and political subjects in the country to firmly commit themselves to acting in practice on the consensus that has been reached, and to appeal to the consciences of these strikers not to create new difficulties in the situation through which we are passing.

The organs of the state in the districts and the ministries, to ensure normal work for enterprises and citizens, have

taken and are strengthening measures to cope with the situation, using the vehicles of other motor pools, such as those of the Army.

The Council of Ministers suggested to the Presidium of the People's Assembly the swift approval of a law to discipline strikes, which will create the necessary legal framework for state services to respond more effectively to people's general concern and to eliminate such disruptions and irresponsible excesses that create insecurity and instability in normal work and life.

The Council of Ministers stressed again that any ultimatum for the immediate increase of working people's wages cannot be met without ongoing work and without achieving significantly higher production. Any wage increases outside this framework would lead to immediate price increases and an immediate decline in the people's purchasing power; therefore, the interests of particular collectives must not be placed above those of working people in general.

The meeting also considered the situation at the Greek-Albanian border, which Albanian citizens are continuing to cross illegally, and decided that the southern districts bordering on Greece should be declared border zones. To enter them, citizens will have to be previously equipped with a permit from the local authorities in their own districts.

'Spontaneous' PPSh Rally Sends Message to Alia

AU2101195491 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1900 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] We read the telegram sent to Comrade Ramiz Alia from a spontaneous rally organized yesterday in the town of Peshkopi:

Today, on 20 January 1990, a rally was held to mark the formation of the Democratic Party's branch in Diber District. Everything was organized to ensure that this rally took place in an orderly fashion. No more than 12 minutes after the rally started, however—when we saw that its supporters included members of some Diber families well-known for crimes committed during the National Liberation War etc.—we, the people, dissociated ourselves from it. A crowd of people in the streets, with thousands of people in the towns of Peshkopi and Bulqize and in the villages, shouted for the Albanian Workers Party [PPSh], crying: Party, Enver, we are always ready, and: Party, Ramiz, Red Diber will not budge. Groups of young people, children, and adults went to the Party Committee and seized flags and portraits of Comrade Enver and you, Comrade Ramiz, and began an enthusiastic demonstration in the town's streets lasting more than two and one-half hours. At the request of the participants in this rally, we are sending you this telegram, which expresses the intense patriotic feelings cultivated down the ages by the people of Diber and their ties with the PPSh, which, from the first days of the [National Liberation] war down to the present day when the first buds of political pluralism and the democratization of the country's entire life have opened, has marched inexorably on the road of progress. The freedom and independence of our dear homeland and the life that the people have built and made secure are linked with the name and personality of Enver Hoxha. As the people say, whoever tries to sling mud at him only covers himself in mud. Albania, in its history of struggle, labor, wisdom, and courage down the centuries, has only been raised on high in the epoch of the party. Whoever tries to deny this concrete fact denies his identity as an Albanian. With sweat, labor, knowledge, culture, and a sharp eye to the gunsights, we have always overcome every obstacle and difficulty under the party's leadership, finding roads to solutions. With labor and discipline, with tightened ranks, and in strong unity, we have forged ahead without panic on the road of progress.

With confidence and optimism, we will undoubtedly also surmount the economic difficulties now facing the country. There are two major ways to fulfill all tasks: for everyone to set their shoulders to labor, and to carry our democratic processes with dialogue and tolerance, not with political excesses. Your words and your standpoint, Comrade Ramiz, give us support and strength to advance.

Long live the Albanian people. Long live the PPSh. Red Diber will not budge.

From the spontaneous rally in Diber District.

President Zhelev on Gulf War, Foreign Policy

AU2101152991 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 21 Jan 91 p 3

[Interview with President Zhelyu Zhelev by Maren Koester-Hetzendorf; place and date not given: "We Must Not Drive the Country Into Spying Mania"]

[Text] [Koester-Hetzendorf] A personal question: Having been a dissident for many years, how do you feel in your post as president?

[Zhelev] As a dissident, you are free to say and do what you think and consider right. Now I must consider parliament and the political forces. I clearly feel that this restricts my freedom. We have all fought for freedom in this country. Now we have freedom. The press writes whatever it comes across; everybody says what they think. I am the only one not allowed to do so.

[Koester-Hetzendorf] Bulgaria is one of the countries most affected by the Gulf war. It is obvious: The gasoline reserves are exhausted, electricity is cut off. Is the international community helping Bulgaria?

[Zhelev] After Kuwait, Bulgaria is the country most affected. Irrespective of that, our position on the aggression has been very resolved and very tough from the start. We condemned it immediately and joined the embargo. Our national assembly also decided to send a contingent consisting of a medical team and a decontamination unit to the Gulf. Saudi Arabia, however, has not yet permitted us to deploy them.

[Koester-Hetzendorf] Our question was about aid to help overcome Bulgaria's serious plight.

[Zhelev] Under the UN statutes, we are entitled to a relevant compensation. Regrettably, so far, we have only been given promises, but have not received any specific help.

[Koester-Hetzendorf] Bulgaria is currently trying to reorient its foreign policy course. What are your guidelines?

[Zhelev] Our way leads directly to Europe. Our foreign policy priorities pursue our integration soon into European structures such as the EC and the Council of Europe. That would give us an opportunity to get credits and modern technologies, which would allow us to carry out the transition to the market economy.

[Koester-Hetzendorf] By making a number of decisions, the EC has shown that it clearly differentiates between developments in the Central European countries and developments in Bulgaria and Romania. You plan to travel to Strasbourg late in February. What will you tell people there?

[Zhelev] If we have to classify the East European countries, there is no reason in my view to exclude Bulgaria from the group of Poland, the CSFR, and Hungary. No blood has been shed here. That shows—and we hope that nothing will change in this respect—that we will succeed in creating a peaceful, cultivated, and civilized transition from the totalitarian communist system to a modern parliamentary democracy.

[Koester-Hetzendorf] You said in your New Year's address that the past year was a "political" year, and this year, the economy would be most important. Why are you so sure that the strongest political storms are over in Bulgaria?

[Zhelev] Of course, we cannot separate one from the other that sharply. Parliamentary elections will be held and a new constitution will be adopted. I said that 1991 would be a predominantly economic year because we are now entering a phase where the most important thing is for us to tackle the economic reforms. An example: Returning the land to the farmers is more important than adopting the constitution. Privatizing the state property is of huge importance because the property situation changes the economic situation on which all the other conditions of society are based.

[Koester-Hetzendorf] Economic reform, however, surely can only be successful if the totalitarian structures of the old regime are dismantled.

[Zhelev] The best way to abolish the old political structures is to destroy the old economic structures. That makes economic reform possible. Neither strikes nor demonstrations can achieve that. These are operettist elements compared to what has to be done with the economy. In the political area, the old structures have factually been dismantled. In Bulgaria, there is a multiparty system, there are independent trade unions, independent media, a democratically elected parliament, a noncommunist president, and a noncommunist government. In addition, we have depoliticized the Army, the Foreign Ministry, the militia, and the judiciary. I interpret the thesis of the continuation of the old structures as talk from some of our friends in the opposition.

[Koester-Hetzendorf] Bulgaria's political landscape is dominated by two warring blocs—the Union of Democratic Forces and the Socialists (formerly Communists—editorial board). Both have concluded a sort of standstill agreement. How do you assess that?

[Zhelev] Positively. I think that the attempt of some politicians to only try and put up opposition is childish. After all, the country also has general national interests. If there is a real fight, there will be no possibility for us to meet, and we will destroy the country without having a chance to make headway. The success of the reforms requires cooperation.

[Koester-Hetzendorf] Opposition leader Petar Beron has resigned because he has been accused of having worked for the secret service in the past. That has given rise to the question about coming to grips with the past. How deeply do you have to dig to get good soil for the present?

[Zhelev] Our parliament has decided to look at the deputies' files (secret service files—editorial board). Obviously, we have to go through a political catharsis. Another way would be to simply destroy these files. It is hard to say which would be wiser. The deputies of the next parliament would have to state in writing whether they worked for the secret service, so there are no tragedies. We must not go any further, however, because that would drive the country into general spying mania.

[Koester-Hetzendorf] A question to the philosopher Zhelev. The old regime created totalitarianism also in the people's minds. What does that mean for the reform process?

[Zhelev] We witnessed the majority of the people putting up resistance within a year to a system that they served slavishly before. That was a rebellion against the political development and the political system. The inner attitude of subjugation and the search for a strong individual or an institution bearing responsibility, however, is changing gradually. On this basis, monarchist moods are flourishing in our country.

The serious crisis that Bulgaria is currently undergoing has called forth despair and a sense of lacking prospects among a large part of the people. These people resort to the old ideology and hope for a miracle. That is one surprise. Other surprises cannot be ruled out; they originate from the people's way of thinking that can only be changed very slowly.

Official, Parties View Gulf War Effects

Kostov on War's Importance

AU2001194691 Sofia BTA in English 1858 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Report on statement by Finance Minister Ivan Kostov on 20 January; place not given]

[Text] Sofia, January 20 (BTA)—Forty-five percent of the respondents in a sociological survey believe that the war in the Persian Gulf is of vital importance for Bulgaria. In a statement made on the national television Minister of Finance Ivan Kostov has proved that they are right.

Quick and successful actions of the Allied Forces will greatly relieve Bulgaria whose economy will surely collapse if oil prices stay high. Mr. Kostov said that Bulgaria could hope to get its 1,200 000 U.S. dollars from Iraq only after things in the country return to normal. Iraq is Bulgaria's greatest debtor.

Bulgaria's official position, which is to abide by the UN resolutions, is shared by all political forces except one extraparliamentary party and the Bulgarian Communist Party.

BSP Council Declaration on War

AU2201101291 Sofia BTA in English 2143 GMT 21 Jan 91

["Declaration of BSP Supreme Council on the War in the Gulf"; place and date not given]

[Text] Sofia, January 21 (BTA)—Taking into account the fact that the military operations are very close to Bulgaria and can pose a real threat to her national security, the Supreme Council of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) considers that every effort should be made for localizing the conflict in the Persian Gulf. In the declaration the Supreme Council of the BSP adopted today it declares itself to be for ceasing the fire and the military operations, for a comprehensive settlement of the crisis by peaceful means and for the withdrawal of the troops from the region. It is said in the declaration that an international conference should be convened for the just and lasting solution of the conflicts in the Middle East, including the Palestinian problem.

The declaration expresses hopes that a solid national concord will be reached by the political forces and society for the achievement of these goals.

It is reminded in the declaration that at the very beginning the BSP categorically condemned the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and supported the efforts of Bulgaria's leadership for the implementation of the resolutions of the UN Security Council, its activity in parliament included.

BCP Denounces West, NATO

AU2001192591 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1830 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] The Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] assesses the war against Iraq, initiated by the United States and its allies from the NATO military-imperialist bloc—England, France, and Italy—as an aggressive and imperialist war. It is not aimed at defending the interests of the Kuwaiti people, but at defending the interests of the American, English, French, and Kuwaiti oil billionaires, and an aggression against the people of Iraq. Thus, the BCP decisively denounces the war, a declaration of the BCP Central Committee reads.

The party sharply protests against the intensified militaristic propaganda of the Bulgarian radio and, especially, the Bulgarian Television.

The BCP views as unconstitutional the decision of President Zhelyu Zhelev to send Bulgarian troops to the Middle East in support of NATO, a decision that was approved by the government and the Grand National Assembly. This decision is imprudent, because according to the BCP, it drags the country into a war that is alien to the interests of the Bulgarian people, something that could have unforeseeable consequences for Bulgaria's security.

Iraqi Opposition Spokesman on War

AU2001162991 Sofia BTA in English 1539 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Report on interview with Amir 'Abd al-Karim, member of the Iraqi opposition, by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] Sofia, January 20 (BTA)—An interview with Mr. Amir 'Abd al-Karim, a member of the Iraqi opposition in Bulgaria, was broadcast in today's afternoon news program of the national television. "The Iraqi opposition here condemns the war and insists that it should be stopped immediately. We believe it is our task to oust Saddam Husayn. The world community could condemn the dictator, declare a blockade but innocent people are being killed in this war, Mr. Karim pointed out.

The spokesman for the Iraqi Kurds in Bulgaria Mr. Bakhtiar Ra'uf Husayn said that the Kurds are for peace but do not believe that a peaceful settlement could be negotiated with Saddam Husayn.

DUMA Commentary Supports War

AU2101150591 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 18 Jan 91 p 2

[Radoslav Velev commentary: "With Hope for Rapid Peace"]

[Text] The war in the Persian Gulf, which after 15 January virtually hovered in the air over this extremely explosive region, already is a fact. It is an unusual war that was announced in advance. The announcement, contained in the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, including Resolution No. 678, merely refrained from pointing out the precise day and hour that the multinational forces, led by the United States, would begin military actions to liberate Kuwait, which was brutally annexed on 2 August 1990. Until the last moment Iraq had the possibility to listen to the voice of prudence and realism, and withdraw its troops from Kuwait. Unfortunately, this did not happen. Now bloody current history is written in the Persian Gulf. May it be a short war, marked by a minimum of human casualties and destruction and not lead to unforeseeable catastrophic consequence.

The great powers—from Washington to Moscow—made great efforts to find a peaceful solution to the crisis. Dozens of big and small countries and the entire world public joined those noble efforts. Just hours before the beginning of the military action the Government of the Republic of Bulgaria issued an appeal to the Iraqi leaders to understand the serious character of the situation, show statesmanlike prudence and responsibility, and immediately adopt measures related to implementing the UN Security Council resolutions. This was a new expression of the consistent position of a country, that as the president of the Republic pointed out yesterday [17 January], suffered more than all other countries, except the victim of the aggression.

The "Desert Storm" operation is understandable. It is a radical measure, applied reluctantly in order to punish the aggressor and restore the sovereignty of Kuwait and its territorial integrity and legal government. Naturally, at the same time one must see and note that the huge Arab oil deposits are the background of the military actions, and that if they did not exist, the country across the ocean would have hardly displayed such a determination.

In its efforts to restore the status quo that existed before 2 August in the Persian Gulf—which was unceremoniously and crudely violated under orders of Saddam Husayn—the Republic of Bulgaria demonstrated determination and adopted decisions that clearly showed to the world that it is against any political-diplomatic games and a firm champion of international law's basic principles and norms. Confidently marching along the road of democratic and free development and respect for human rights and freedoms, the Bulgarian people cannot be indifferent toward criminal acts prompted by the insane logic of the law of jungle, which violates the most elementary rules of civilization and international relations. Therefore, our country categorically and unconditionally condemned the Iraqi aggressor, and now categorically and unconditionally wishes a rapid success in the military actions for the liberation of Kuwait.

War, even when conducted for a just cause, does not cease to be the worst disaster for the people. It jeopardizes human life—the most precious asset that cannot be restored by any means. We greet the shocking news from the Persian Gulf with the hope for a rapid triumph of peace in this region, in accordance with the requirements of world public, the UN Security Council resolutions, and the aspirations of the suffering Kuwaiti people, and in the interest of lasting peace in the Middle East.

Defense Official Fears Turkey's Involvement

AU1901152391 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1000 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Statement by Colonel General Radnyu Minchev, first deputy minister of national defense and chief of the General Staff of the Bulgarian People's Army; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] The second strike by Iraqi missiles against Tel Aviv this morning show that the Iraqi missile launchers have still not been destroyed. At the present stage in development of the Persian Gulf conflict, it is likely that the Iraqi forces will be directed toward drawing Israel into the war, by launching further missile attacks against Israeli territory with the aim of provoking a counterstrike by the Israeli side, and hence to arouse disagreements among the participants in the anti-Iraq coalition of Arab states, so that some of them may possibly change sides to join Iraq, as well as by beginning a campaign of terrorist actions.

Second, one may presuppose that a preemptive attack may be expected against the formations of the ground forces of the multinational forces, using air power and large-caliber artillery. One cannot exclude either that offensive actions may be expected in certain sectors. Iraq may also turn to the use of chemical weapons.

It is true that the multinational armed forces, and chiefly the United States, are insisting that Israel's reaction should be coordinated with the assessments of the military command of the multinational forces. It may be expected that, if Israel carries out a counterstrike, this strike will have to be coordinated with the general operations of the multinational forces.

Given the qualitatively new situation that is being created in the region (?and bearing in mind) these factors, strong calls will indisputably be made in the UN Security Council to adopt a resolution on halting the military actions, because the conflict is spreading.

An important element in the development of the situation is the inclusion, for all practical purposes, of the Indzirlik air base in the military operations in the region, and military-political experts from many countries, including from certain Balkan states, are of the opinion that the actual utilization of the Indzirlik air base, the possible involvement of Turkey in practice in the military actions, and the opening of a second front, together with the Israel factor, may lead to the actual involvement of NATO as a military organization in the war.

Further, this situation greatly worries Syria, in particular in relation to possible territorial claims by Turkey against Iraq regarding the region around (?Usul). In addition, the increase of the military pressure on Iraq, mainly through the use of air power, at the present stage is the only means which allows the minimizing of casualties on the side of the multinational forces.

The situation in Bulgaria is calm. The deployment of the forces of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has been completed, and the protection of the diplomatic missions has been strengthened. The Ministry of Defense has not issued any instructions for conducting any exercises or taking measures within the country.

President Says Dictatorship Possible in USSR

AU1901194091 Sofia BTA in English 1920 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Report on statement by President Zhelyu Zhelev; place and date not given: "Bulgarians Stand on Their Own Feet"]

[Text] Sofia, January 19 (BTA)—"I am glad that all political forces, as well as state institutions in Bulgaria, have condemned the military intervention in the Baltic republics. This points to the fact that the Bulgarian people no longer stick to Soviet attitudes nor to communist ideology," President Zhelev said on the national television.

Asked whether the events in the Baltic republics prove the thesis, developed in his book "Fascism," that the road from totalitarianism to democracy passes through a military coup, the president pointed out that the latest events in the Soviet Union—Foreign Minister Shevardnadze's resignation, the situation in Lithuania and the other Baltic republics—might be indications that dictatorship is coming. "It seems the events in Lithuania are moving towards a military coup, but at the moment we still have no reasons to conclude that military dictatorship has been imposed in the USSR," Mr. Zhelev said.

The president pointed out that Bulgaria should realize that it is the delay of the economic reforms in the Soviet Union that have led to the escalation of tension in the Baltic republics.

Bulgaria could and should work out its own independent policy, Dr. Zhelev pointed out. According to the president, the radical changes that have taken place in international relations enable small countries like Bulgaria to follow their own policy by integrating into larger communities without turning into "satellites" of any of the superpowers.

The Bulgarian president pointed out that Bulgaria's foreign policy is aimed at integrating the country into all European and world structures and economic institutions. This provides the context for understanding Bulgaria's possible participation in a Black Sea economic zone, President Zhelev said, dismissing accusations that this move would harm the interests of the country.

Foreign Minister on Warsaw Pact Membership

AU1901210391 Sofia BTA in English 2019 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Sofia, January 19 (BTA)—I think that the Warsaw Pact will lose much of its functions in the future. Bulgaria's participation in the Pact is a complex issue and should not be limited only to the question of staying in the Pact or leaving it, Mr. Vulkov, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Bulgaria, said in a television interview, when asked whether the events in the Baltic republics would lead to the disbanding of the Warsaw Pact.

Bulgaria has expressed its willingness to leave the Pact but this means that we will have to sit down for talks aimed at reducing the conventional forces within the framework of our military organization. Mr. Vulkov pointed out that Bulgaria has expressed its readiness to participate in the talks due to be held between the foreign ministers of Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia, aimed at coordinating their attitudes and stands as regards the Warsaw Pact. However, Bulgaria should pay attention to the reactions of the other member states as well.

Discussing the Gulf war, Mr. Vulkov pointed out that parliament has approved sending a Bulgaria military-medical unit to the Gulf. The country is also willing to receive soldiers from the allied forces for treatment in Bulgarian hospitals.

BSP Chariman Lilov Meets Greece's Mitsotakis

AU1801173791 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 13 Jan 91 p 1

[Text] This morning Konstandinos Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, met Aleksandur Lilov, chairman of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] Supreme Council. During the talk Mr. Mitsotakis was briefed on the major tasks of the Bulgarian Socialists in connection with our country's transition to democracy. The BSP has great political experience that will be applied in this process, Lilov stated. As to relations with our southern neighbor, Aleksandur Lilov stressed that full consensus exists in Bulgaria on this question, irrespective of different party colors. He expressed the opinion that our relations should not develop on a purely ideological basis, but on a partnership basis. Regarding this, he welcomes the visit of Mr. Mitsotakis to Bulgaria, also as the leader of the New Democracy Party.

In answering, Mr. Mitsotakis pointed out that the stand of the two parties regarding Bulgarian-Greek relations is well known. He stressed that as a minister in the Yeoriyos Papandreou government he had been involved in the development of Bulgarian-Greek relations since 1964 when the foundations of his friendship were established. This is a policy of national significance for both countries that exceeds the political framework, which is untouched by the change of leaders and regimes. He expressed his readiness to establish direct, new contacts between the New Democracy party and the BSP by stressing that his party is eager to establish relations with all political parties in the countries with which Greece has good relations.

Mitsotakis Views Relations

AU1801181891 Sofia ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME in Bulgarian 12 Jan 91 pp 1,3

[Interview with Greek Prime Minister Konstadinos Mitsotakis, by Borislav Kosturkov in Sofia; date not given—""We Are on Your Side!""]

[Text] [Kosturkov] Almost a year ago, actually, precisely 11 months ago, in another interview with ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME you stressed that our two nations entered a period of long friendship. What will the first and most specific manifestations of this friendship be?

[Mitsotakis] My present visit in the Republic of Bulgaria is a landmark on the road of our new and closer cooperation. The fact that Greece and Bulgaria become the basic axis of Balkan policy, that we agree on all basic issues, and that we are an example of good-neighborly relations and real friendship is a reliable guarantee of our friendship and cooperation.

When I visited Bulgaria in February 1990 I was not yet a prime minister, and Bulgaria did not embark completely on the journey toward democracy. Nevertheless, already I was pleased to note that your country marches along the correct road—the road of democratization. I am glad that my forecast proved correct and that your achievements in the political sphere even surpass my expectations. Of course, Bulgaria experiences serious economic difficulties. We are on your side and not only as a state and government. The humanitarian aid rendered by the Greek people—privately collected and sent—demonstrates their warm attitude toward the friendly Bulgarian people. The development of democracy in your country expands even more the dimensions of our cooperation, in the direction of all-Balkan understanding....

[Kosturkov] Last year you said that Greece will be Bulgaria's bridge toward the future and united Europe. Do you think that Bulgaria will be able to cross this bridge quickly ?

[Mitsotakis] We Greeks want to help Bulgaria's relations with the European community and generally, Europe, as much as possible. In other words, our country, as a member of the EEC, is your "agent," your representative there, and will act energetically for Bulgaria's incorporation in the European community. Naturally, the pace of this enterprise depends largely on your socioeconomic development. We are optimists and wish you luck!

Hijacking Incident Concluded; Passengers Safe

AU2101165591 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1600 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] The TU-154 aircraft of the AEROFLOT Airline that was hijacked on domestic flight No. 85154 on the Tashkent-Grozniy-Odessa line was forced to land at Burgas Airport. A total of 151 passengers, including five children and eight crew members, were on board.

According to preliminary data submitted by the AEROFLOT office in Bulgaria, the hijacker was a Soviet citizen, who was carrying a package of unknown contents and threatened that he would blow up the aircraft if it did not land in Istanbul.

Turkish authorities, however, categorically refused to allow the aircraft to land on Turkish territory, and at 50 kilometers from the Turkish border, the aircraft changed route in order to land at 1339 local time [1139 GMT] at Burgas airport.

Following this, according to the hijacker's request, negotiations are underway between him and a specially formed group headed by General Krasimir Sandzhiev, deputy minister of internal affairs.

Actually, we should use the past tense for this last sentence, because I just heard from the area of the event, that the incident is closed. We will announce the details in one of our next newscast, as soon as we have learned them.

[Sofia BTA in English at 1625 GMT on 21 January identifies the hijacker as "Gennadiy Yurevich Gannemets from the region of Novorossiysk, the Soviet Union, a recidivist recently released from prison.]

Hijacker Surrenders

AU2101214091 Sofia BTA in English 2017 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Burgas, January 21 (BTA)—The hijacker of the TU-154 of the Soviet AEROFLOT servicing the line Tashkent-Grozni-Odessa has surrendered to the competent Bulgarian authorities at the Burgas Airport. His name is Gennadiy Yuriyevich Gan, a recidivist recently released from prison.

Only a few minutes before the aircraft's landing in Odessa the criminal went to the cockpit and, threatening the air hostesses, forced the crew to change their course to Istanbul. As the Turkish authorities forbade the acceptance of the aircraft, at 13.39 hr, it landed in Burgas.

Special swat teams from Sofia and Burgas headed by General Krasimir Samandzhiev, deputy minister of the interior, captured the hijacker. He had no explosive materials in his hands. All the 156 passengers including five children are fine. They will stay the night at the Cosmos Hotel. The aircraft is expected to leave for Odessa tomorrow.

Prime Minister, Prodev Debate Price Issue

AU1801213491 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 10 Jan 91 pp 1,2

[Unattributed report: "In a Discussion Prime Minister Popov Expressed Disagreement With DUMA Report on New Prices"]

[Text] Yesterday's DUMA report entitled, "The Popov Government Is Planning To Introduce Higher Prices Than the Former Lukanov Cabinet," evoked broad discussion among the population and in certain media. This is natural, considering the generally expected price policy liberalization.

The aforementioned report was the subject of a discussion between Prime Minister Dimitur Popov and DUMA's chief editor Stefan Prodev. Their conversation proceeded in a businesslike and calm atmosphere.

Mr. Dimtur Popov expressed his discontent with the text of the report and described its publication as an "incorrect action." Prodev assured the prime minister that no incorrect action was involved, but that the report was an expression of the newspaper's normal wish to brief its readers on one of the crucial current problems. Glasnost also has its problems, and Mr. Prodev pointed out in this respect that glasnost involves great responsibility.

Several issues related to news coverage and to the government's price policy were clarified during the conversation, which led to the following stands:

The figures published in the charts on foodstuff prices, power supply expenditures, and city transportation tickets that were presented as prices established by the Popov government have never been discussed by the cabinet. They only represent one option of the expected level of prices drafted in the course of the negotiations preceding the political forces' agreement that was reviewed along with other options (the highest and lowest possible prices included). The government's fundamental problem today is not to establish a price level, but to provide conditions for price liberalization. Under market economy conditions only the ratio between supply and demand can determine price limits.

In searching for a solution to the problem concerning a possible cost of living increase resulting from the liberalization policy and related to the volume of compensations for the price increase and to the mechanism of its implementation for various strata of the population, according to the different wages and pensions which they are earning, the experts and the contracting sides have drafted a large number of options. In the long run the two sides reached the unanimous understanding that the government and the employers are expected to guarantee compensations for the increase of prices resulting from the price liberalization policy. The compensations are expected to cover 70 percent of the cost of living increase on average. Along with this, a new limit for minimum wages on the basis of a ratio of 0.7 to the social minimum, based on the consumer goods basket listing approximately 600 goods at current prices that is expected to be introduced along with the liberalization of prices will be established.

This essential part of the agreement between the government, the trade unions, and employers was not included in the original DUMA report, creating the impression that the government is about to adopt a price increase regardless of the consequences that might affect the population.

In addition to this, the DUMA report compares the prices and the index of their increase with the prices of the Lukanov government on the basis of the highest prices used in drafting the options for the agreement between the government, the trade unions, and employers. That the prices of Lukanov's draft program referred to a price situation of 2-3 months ago when inflation had different dimensions from the present one, was not taken into consideration. We should also add that the prices of power supply, heating, coal, and public transportation tickets indicated in the DUMA report are not categorical and the fact that certain subsidies are

envisaged for them was not mentioned. This also created a distorted and wrong impression about proceedings likely to mislead readers.

Mr. Popov and Stefan Prodev agreed during their discussion that the manner in which the DUMA report was conceived and the comparisons it contained were likely to disturb the people and evoke their concern.

The fact that prices are expected to change and that all economic and real market conditions exist, this fact is undeniable. We are talking about a system of healing measures; however, we are also talking about initiating an economic reform likely to rescue our country and people from the crisis. The government is evidently concerned about guaranteeing minimal social protection for the population.

Apart from reporting on the exchange of opinions that took place between the prime minister and DUMA's editor in chief, the editorial board feels obliged to specify the following facts:

—The aforementioned DUMA report never mentioned a decision of the government on the new prices. The report specified that it is citing figures "based on the draft...which is one of the options." In publishing "one of many options," we did not intend to misinform our people but to brief them, even if only partially, on the great difficulties awaiting them.

—The critics of the daily DUMA are applying much too severe criteria to our report, criteria that cannot be fulfilled because a simple report is incapable of exhaustively analyzing a problem, or reviewing it in detail.

—Irrespective of all its imperfections and omissions, our report provided a general, though inconclusive, picture of the trends in price increase. This was not denied by the points of view expressed during the aforementioned conversation.

—DUMA fully realizes that its report is a cause of concern and might provoke tension. We are also convinced, however, that there should be no taboo subjects, that every newspaper is entitled to brief its readers on crucial, topical issues, and that this right is inviolable.

—Our editorial board would be delighted if the aforementioned price increases whould not be confirmed. In this respect it regards its report not only as a source of concern, but also as a unique poll of public opinion on topical problems. In this connection the editorial board is convinced that, irrespective of all negative opinions, our report is likely to help all interested circles in drawing their own useful conclusions.

—DUMA declares that our recent report did not pursue any objectives other than the aforementioned ones. It will support with all its efforts all urgent, difficult, unattractive, but sensible decisions of the government, likely to assist our country in promptly overcoming the crisis.

Last, but not least, let us point out something else: We got the impression that the salvos were once again directed exclusively against DUMA. Along with the Bulgarian Socialist Party tool, OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK, which is close to the government, also published a report on the price situation mentioning some rather exaggerated figures. Let us not talk about certain commentaries on the national radio network by economic experts who declared that they are not surprised by the figures mentioned in our report, considering that they sound quite realistic. Naturally, the DUMA editorial board is perfectly aware why it is a target of criticism from those who are doing everything within their power to discredit our newspaper in the eyes of the public. This is their own business. Our business is to inform the public even at the risk of evoking unpleasant thoughts.

We also feel obliged to inform our readers that at the final stage of the discussion between Mr. Dimitur Poplov and Stefan Prodev, which was attended by Mrs. Emiliya Maslarova, minister of labor and social welfare, our daily's editor in chief expressed his regret that a DUMA report caused additional concern to the prime minister in these days when his efforts should be focused on crucial issues of decisive importance for our motherland. Unlike some of our "critics" Mr. Popov responded with understanding.

Havel Interviewed on Gulf, Domestic Affairs

LD2001173491

[Editorial Report] Prague Domestic Service in Czech at 1330 GMT on 20 January, in its "Conversations at Lany" program, carries a 25-minute interview with President Vaclav Havel by editor Vejvoda. Vejvoda opens the interview by asking Havel about his vacation. Havel explains that he led a very healthy life for three weeks at a health clinic in Germany because he felt rather exhausted. Now he is physically fit again. Asked about how much he followed political events during his vacation, Havel says he used the time to assess various issues he personally considers important without being rushed to do other things. He notes that it was also the first anniversary of his election to the post of president and therefore an occasion for summing up.

Asked to assess his first year as president, Havel says he receives many critical letters and reads many critical articles, but in fact they never criticize the most serious mistakes he committed and therefore he will not reveal them. Havel notes that people often hold him responsible for everything and points out it is impossible to be liked by everybody. He stresses that the final criterion for him is his conscience. Pressed to speak about the successes of his first year as president, Havel admits that he thinks if some of his view were given more attention it could help to avoid some current problems.

Vejvoda then asks Havel to comment on the situation in the Persian Gulf. Havel says: "My view on this matter is well known, but I do not think it will do any harm if I recapitulate it briefly. No normal, sensible person, of course, is happy when a war is on somewhere. War is a terible thing, and it is even less pleasing for someone who is not only a normal person but who, in addition, is supreme commander of an army which has sent a unit to the war. Although the unit will not take a direct part in the hostilities, it is nonetheless under the same threat as anyone else, so this is no reason for joy. On the other hand, it is clear that evil must be resisted right at the embryonic stage. If the international community had been able, after the rise of Hitler and his initial expansionist actions, to stand up to him in such a resolute way, the world could have been spared the Second World War. The cause of that war has been a great lesson to mankind, and from that point of view it is clear that strenuous resistance to Saddam Husayn is the only right and only possible solution, the only solution for the good of the human race on this globe, and I am glad that Czechoslovakia, after long decades, is taking part in this resolute resistance to evil. It is also reaping general respect in the international community and in the Arab world. Czechoslovakia's prestige has thus risen markedly, and this will have many consequences in the decades to come.

"Of course we can see on television how many big demonstrations are being organized in various Western countries against the war. Nonetheless, it appears to me that the peace movements, guided as they may be by the most honest, most pure, and most upright intentions, are mistaken. After all, we can remember something similar from the time of Hitler's rise to power. Then, too, there was a power pacifist movement that was, in fact, a support for the policy of appeasement; in other words, the policy of giving in to evil, the policy of continually bargaining with the aggressor, continually looking for compromises, goodwill gestures, and the like. The aggressor only scoffed at it. For him, this was only a prelude to his future aggression. He did not take any agreement seriously, he did not keep any of his promises, and the large pacifist movement of that time played an unfortunate role because, to a certain extent, it contributed to the outbreak of the World War II. I fear that these movements today, too, are wrong, and I think it a very good thing that the public in Czechoslovakia has understood the need for resolute resistance. After all, in our modern history we have paid dearly on several occasions for precisely this policy of capitulation, concessions, appeasement. How many times were we told that in the interst of saving human lives and people's property it is necessary to submit, grasp the realities, and give in to evil? After these historical experiences, our public is probably mature enough to understand this situation correctly and understand that this fanatical aggressor, who is threatening the whole globe, must be resisted right from the first moment."

Vejvoda points out that even democratic Western countries used to supply Iraq with weapons and asks whether Czechoslovakia is going to have a mechanism implemented in its market economy to prevent something similar from happening. Havel says: "As you well know, we have been transforming our centralized economy into a normally working market economy. All of us understand that this transformation is inevitable, that it is necessary, and that it must be carried out speedily.

"Sometimes this leads to making an idol of the market milieu and whenever somebody, however slightly, hints at any kind of a central intervention, state intervention, any decision to be made by the center, such person is immediately suspected of being an enemy of an organic, self-moving development based on a varied, pluralistic play of market relations.

"I am afraid that this is sometimes a bit shortsighted. The thing you brought up illustrates this nicely. A long time ago, years and years ago when I was not president, I criticized the West specifically for this policy of arming and supporting those extremely suspicious and aggressive regimes. It is obvious that it is really not possible to rely on the market to solve everything by itself and automatically. That market is the guarantee of development.

"Of course, from the point of view of a purely market economy, the best thing is to sell weapons where they are in demand. Nevertheless, there are cases when, because of the principles which are more important, superior, and of longer-term significance, it is necessary to regulate these otherwise totally natural market mechanisms."

Answering a question about domestic political issues, Havel notes that although people are now especially interested in rising prices, such issues of fundamental importance as drafting constitutions are currently being tackled, and it is something he considers of utmost importance for the future of the state.

Havel turns to the topic of screening candidates for public office, saying: "The problem is one of the horrific things we have inherited from the past system. It is one of the things which is, in a way, worse than a badly run factory or a bureaucratic colossus which can be corrected rather speedily. Unlike such things, the problem is a horrible legacy. It is the legacy of moral decay that was inflicted upon our society by the former regime in the course of the years during which it was in power. It is based on the idea of a total demoralization of people, on blackmail and confusion to involve all of them, to implicate them all." Havel indicates that what happened was typical of a totalitarian regime.

He says: "The practices of state security were, of course, an obvious—and for the press, an attractive—part of this general demoralization. I think that it is necessary to deal with this in some way, to address it, to reveal it, and to draw consequences from it. Those people who signed an agreement to be agents really cannot hold public office. This is clear."

He adds: "Nevertheless, I would like to appeal to the public not to automatically persecute anyone about whom state security membership is ascertained or becomes generally known." He notes that sometimes very strong pressure is exercised against these people.

Vejvoda concludes by asking Havel if he wrote any literary works during his vacation. Havel says he was writing about the paradoxes of power in 1989, but after getting involved in the revolution, he threw it away. Now, after a year as president, he is a bit sorry he did not keep it. Perhaps he will return to this subject one day.

Defense Council Meets, Discusses Gulf Offensive

LD1701203891 Prague CTK in English 1641 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 17 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Council of State Defence met today and after its session President Vaclav Havel said he believes that "in the face of the resolute action Saddam Husayn will at last understand he has no option but to leave Kuwait."

"A large-scale air offensive... was one of the expected options, perhaps the quickest and most officient one," Havel said and hoped that civilian casualties of the military actions in the Persian Gulf were not high.

The president, who is Czechoslovak Armed forces commander in chief, said that a special inter-ministerial team is overseeing internal security in Czechoslovakia. The Defence Council has given instructions for the protection of buildings and persons. It also discussed matters concerning destablization in the Soviet Union, Havel said.

The Council of State Defence was called into session by its chairman, Prime Minister Marian Calfa. It heard a report by Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier on the situation in the Gulf and the activities of the ministry's special crisis team. He said that Czechoslovak citizens in the area, including members of the about 180-strong military unit based in Saudi Arabia, are well.

Interior Minister Jan Langos reported on the activities of a special security staff while Defence Minister Lubos Dobrovsky told his colleagues about cooperation between the Czechoslovak Army and the security staff in the protection of buildings and facilities of special importance.

The council said that the measures which have been taken for internal protection in Czechoslovakia are sufficient at the moment and instructed the interior minister to prepare further steps to protect the citizens and property.

The council met at the presidential chateau in Lany outside Prague. Participants in the session included the Czech and Slovak prime ministers, federal government ministers and presidential advisers.

Pithart Discusses Possible Reserve Call-Up

LD2101001591 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2030 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Czech Prime Minister Petr Pithart, in his regular television appearance today, returned to his statement on the calling up of reservists. He pointed out that he does not have this authority, but that he simply spoke of the possibility that a situation could arise when the forces which are available at present would not be sufficient. In his opinion, therefore, it is not out of the question that it might become necessary to call up reservists.

The Czech prime minister also expressed surprise at the irresponsible attitude of a number of people, since only very few enterprises have increased security around their premises, despite the fact that this was recommended to all directors by the Czech Government. In this connection, Petr Pithart stated that the Czech Government has only a minimum of jurisdiction to increase security.

Agreement on Unit in Saudi Arabia Ratified

AU1801134991 Prague CTK in English 2134 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 16 (CTK)—The Czechoslovak Federal Parliament ratified today a Czechoslovak-Saudi Government agreement on the activity and conditions of stay of Czechoslovak military experts on the territory of Saudi Arabia.

The parliament also agreed that the decision on a possible deployment of the Czechoslovak decontamination regiment outside the Saudi territory should be made on the part of Czechoslovakia by the Czechoslovak Federal Government.

The Czechoslovak Government agreed with sending the Czechoslovak regiment of about 180 to Saudi Arabia on November 16, 1990 and the first part left there on December 11.

Defense Ministry on Gulf Troops, Warsaw Pact

LD1601211291 Prague CTK in English 1442 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 16 (CTK)—"It's practically war, but nobody has fired yet" - that was the Czechoslovak defence ministry press spokesperson's assessment of the situation on the Iraqi-Saudi Arabian-Kuwaiti frontier today, after a Czechoslovak Army delegation returned from the area.

Chief foreign relations officer of the Czechoslovak Army general staff, Major General Jiri Jindra said the situation in the Gulf raised the threat of terrorism. 47 Iraqi students attending the Brno Military Academy in South Moravia are in various places around the country and are being watched, said Jindra. There were asked yesterday to either leave Czechoslovakia or submit themselves to voluntary internment.

Speaking at the Defence Ministry's regular press briefing, press spokesperson Petr Tax said the Czechoslovak volunteer anti-chemical battalion is in very good shape and the atmosphere in the unit is outstanding.

Major General Jindra repeated that the unit's mission is to perform chemical and radiation reconnaissance and decontamination, to provide medical assistance and instruction and to prepare the defence of Saudi Arabian soldiers and civilians, as Saudi Arabia does not yet have a unit capable of providing protection against chemical weapons. Asked whether the Czechoslovak unit's status would change if Israel were to enter a war or if the anti-Iraq coalition were to fall apart, Jindra answered: "As long as Israel does not enter the war first, if it is attacked and responds with the appropriate measures, a breakup of the anti-Iraq coalition is not anticipated".

Two of the Czechoslovak volunteers returned home with the recent delegaton visiting Saudi Arabia, said Tax. One of the soldiers returned out of fear and the other was not adequately fulfilling his duties, according to the press spokesperson.

For Czechoslovakia to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact would be insignificant from a military point of view, since the military union is no longer functioning and the Warsaw Pact leadership has no influence on the Czechoslovak Army's activities, said Major General Jindra.

Foreign Ministry Comdemns Iraqi Attack on Israel

LD1801142491 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1200 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] The Czechoslovak Ministry of Foreign Affairs today described the Iraqi missile attack against Israel as an irresponsible, aggressive action in which—without provocation—one state carried out a military aggression against another. Such behavior, even in the current tense situation in the Persian Gulf, must be viewed as a further gross violation of the basic principles of international law and could lead to a more dangerous escalation of tension in the whole area. Czechoslovakia in this way expresses a resolute protest against the action of the Iraqi Army.

Israeli Envoy Comments

LD1801172491 Prague CTK in English 1618 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 18 (CTK)—Israeli ambassador to Czechoslovakia Yo'el Sher told CTK today that the Iraqi attack on civilians in Israel can be characterized as a barbaric act and that the Israeli Government is considering all possible ways of ensuring security and order in the country.

He replied to the question whether Israel would retaliate the Iraqi attack.

He referred to the sending of the anti-chemical unit to the Persian Gulf by Czechoslovakia, saying that Czechoslovakia is taking part in efforts at installing justice in the area.

Israel has nothing in common with the present crisis in the Gulf which has been incited by the acts of the dictatorial regime against a small and a weaker country, the ambassador said and added that this is not only the question of the liberation of Kuwait. All arms which have been accumulated in the area, namely in Iraq in the past couple of years, should be destroyed. "If Husayn threatens to liquidate Israel we must do our utmost to defend ourselves," he said. The area will not be safe and peaceful if dictate and terror still exist there, the ambassador told CTK.

Embassies Stop Issuing Visas to Iraqi Citizens

AU1801153791 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 16 Jan 91 p 2

[CTK report in "Briefly" column]

[Text] Our embassies have stopped issuing visas to Iraqi citizens. Checks of persons and vehicles have been strengthened at the CSFR border crossings.

Iraqi Students Told To Leave or Face Internment

AU1801134191 Prague CTK in English 1437 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 16 (CTK)— "It's practically war, but nobody has fired yet" that was the Czechoslovak defense minister press spokesperson's assessment of the situation on the Iraqi-Saudi Arabian-Kuwaiti frontier today, after a Czechoslovak Army delegation returned from the area.

Chief foreign relations officer of the Czechoslovak Army general staff, Major General Jiri Jindra said the situation in the Gulf raises the threat of terrorism. 47 Iraqi students attending the Brno Military Academy in South Moravia are in various places around the country and are being watched, said Jindra. They were asked yesterday to either leave Czechoslovakia or submit themselves to voluntary internment.

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For Czechoslovakia to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact would be insignificant from a military point of view, since the military union is no longer functioning and the Warsaw Pact leadership has no influence on the Czechoslovak Army's activities, said Major General Jindra.

Students 'Under Supervision'

AU2201103691 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 18 Jan 91 p 2

[CTK report: "The Military Academy Without Iraqis"]

[Text] According to information that we acquired at the Federal Ministry of Defense, there were 49 Iraqi Army students studying at the Military Academy in Brno. They left the military facility a few days ago, however, and they no longer have anything to do with our Army. They are just like other foreign nationals in the CSFR. Omnipol, a foreign enterprise, is responsible for their continued residence in our country. The Iraqis are also under the supervision of the appropriate authorities.

Palestinian Ambassador Says No Winners in War

AU2101143691 Prague CTK in English 1935 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 17 (CTK)—"Regardless of the imbalance of forces between the multinational and Iraqi units this war will have no winners but only bigger and lesser losers", Ambassador of the Palestinian State to Czechoslovakia Samih 'Abd-al-Fatah wrote in a statement handed over to CTK today.

He further wrote in the statement that the PLO continues to stress that the use of force by the United States and multinational units will solve no problem and that by its steps the United States pushes moderate regimes in the area to radicalism. He recalled that while using all its force against Iraq, the United States has for more than 23 years ignored the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, and warned that the present world orientation on the Gulf war might be abused by Israel to transferring Palestinians from the Jordan West Bank to Jordan or for escalating reprisals on the occupied lands.

Criticizes Gulf War Stance

AU2101161591 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 19 Jan 91 p 8

[Interview with Palestinian Ambassador to Czechoslovakia Samih Abd-al-Fatah by Boris Latta; place and date not given: "Is Every Arab (Palestinian) a Terrorist?"—first paragraph is PRAVDA introduction]

[Text] Is every Arab (Palestinian) a terrorist? This is the way one could characterize the fear felt by most of our readers in reaction to the comprehensive security measures being adopted by our country in connection with the military conflict in the Persian Gulf. In this context, we asked the ambassador from the State of Palestine for an interview.

[Latta] It seems that our public is forming the impression that terrorists are one and the same as Arabs.

[Fatah] Since the beginning of the conflict in the Persian Gulf, the Czechoslovak information media and circles close to Zionist forces have endeavored to distort and misrepresent the point of view expressed by the PLO. We have recently become aware of an extensive campaign against Arabs and, first and foremost, against Palestinians. Certain circles are attempting to spread reports and rumors that Arabs and Palestinians want to carry out terrorist attacks. We think the purpose of this campaign is to prepare the Czechoslovak public for a diplomatic step (everything points to this) that has—in our opinion—already been taken. This involves a step against the PLO and the State of Palestine.

[Latta] What do you think of the comprehensive security measures being implemented in connection with the outbreak of war in the Gulf?

[Fatah] Please allow me to begin my answer by asking some questions: What is the CSFR's attitude toward the Gulf conflict? Is there a military relationship between Arabs and the CSFR? No. Czechoslovakia has justified the deployment of its antichemical warfare unit in Saudi Arabia by emphasizing its humane mission. I beg your pardon. What are we witnessing? Official Czechoslovak points of view and the attitude of some of the mass media create the impression that the CSFR is in a state of war with Iraq and with Arabs in general.

In my opinion, the extent of the security measures is unwarranted. They will result in creating an atmosphere of hatred against Arabs, including Palestinians. I can categorically state that there are no concrete reports of any illegal activity (especially terrorist activity) by Palestinians residing in the CSFR.

Your country is a friendly state as far as Arabs and Palestinians are concerned. In the past, Czechoslovakia was never—and it is no different today—a subject of "interest" for the activity that some people are attempting to impose upon us. The situation will be no different in the future.

Conducting terrorist activity in the CSFR? I ask you, how can this be when many Arabs have no idea where your country is? It is the same thing here; some of your people think the Persian Gulf is somewhere in Africa.

Only Israel and those who do not like the existing Palestinian-Czechoslovak diplomatic relationship can reap any benefit from the psychosis that threatens us. I conveyed this point of view at your Foreign Ministry on Thursday [17 January] and, at the same time, I made it absolutely clear that I welcome any cooperation with the Czechoslovak Government in the interest of uncovering third forces which would like to abuse the current tense situation surrounding the conflict in the Gulf to carry out illegal activity. I would also like to cooperate to prevent any of their possible activity being ascribed to Palestinians.

If anyone is in danger in your country today, then it is Arabs and Palestinians. At present, it is necessary to adopt security measures in the interest of protecting us. There is an anti-Semitic campaign being waged here against Semitic Arabs. We all know who is behind it.

[Latta] How do the Czechoslovak authorities react to your points of view?

[Fatah] It seems to me that the Czechoslovak side reads our announcements containing PLO points of view only partially. It perceives them the way it likes to perceive them. On the basis of this, it then comes to preconceived conclusions. I spoke openly with the Czechoslovak side about the fact that the PLO is the victim of terrorism and aggression. The PLO condemns any form of terrorism on principle, no matter who carries it out. I would be pleased if people could understand that we will not applaud the American bombs dropped on Baghdad today. We are neither Europe nor America. We are faced with aggression and we are in a state of self-defense. Is terrorism a form of self-defense?

Deputy Minister on Economic Impact of Gulf War

LD1801105991 Prague Federal 1 Television Network in Czech 2105 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Interview with Jiri Brabec, first deputy minister of foreign trade, by unidentified reporter in Prague; date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter I welcome Jiri Brabec, first deputy minister of foreign trade, in our studio. Mr. Minister, I would like to ask you about the extent of the impact of the Persian Gulf conflict.

[Brabec] The conflict has already had a great impact on our country. In harmony with the UN Security [Council] resolution, the presidium of the government immediately adopted a resolution; consequently, the Ministry of Foreign Trade issued a regulation freezing all economic contacts with both Iraq and Kuwait. This, of course, has a great impact on our economy—both from the point of view of the impact directly coming from the Iraqi side as our outstanding claims on Iraq, amounting to about $580 million, were frozen and also from the point of view of our losses as a consequence of half-fulfilled contracts, goods trapped on the way, supplies at our producers which amount to about $420 million, as well as our assets amounting to about $20 million dollars, and loss of contracts outlined for the next few years amounting to about $1 billion—i.e., the amount that is difficult to place speedily on other markets. [sentence as heard]

[Reporter] What did we export there?

[Brabec] Our exports to Iraq consisted, above all, of petrochemical equipment, equipment for engineering factories, tractors, and irrigation equipment.

Let me return to the impact once more. What I spoke about was the direct impact. The indirect, secondary impact is, above all, the increase in oil prices. We suffer from it very strongly; for your information, when the price of a barrel goes up by one dollar it means $80 million per year—one dollar equals $80 million—providing a very low level expected for this year—i.e., 12 million tonnes,which is 4.5 million less than last year.

[Reporter] You returned to the impact, and I am going to return to the issue of exports. Let us speak about weapons; what sort of weapons have we exported to Iraq? Providing you can speak about it.

[Brabec] Yes, of course. You asked if I can speak about it; I would like to say that our export of weapons is well known, but one of the good features of an exporter of

weapons is certain discretion. In the case of Iraq I can say that, based on a credit agreement—state credit agreement, dated 1986, and amounting to about $500 million—weapons had been supplied until 1988 and roughly half of the credit amount was used. Subsequenlty, supplies were halted because of Iraq's failure to pay, failure to fulfill the agreement. Ground weapons, including heavy vehicles such as tanks and armored vehicles, were supplied above all.

[Reporter] Mr. Deputy Minister, could you tell me what the impact of this conflict might be on our trade with other countries of the region, with the Arab world in the future?

[Brabec] Above all, it means, from one point of view, the certain opening of new possibilities. The opening of possibilities—namely because the stand of principle, our correct stand regarding this crisis—is being appreciated. Among other things, this leads to the opening of new markets for us—for instance, Saudi Arabia, where we have never exported before. The export of weapons there is also being considered, as you asked about weapons, though it is not only weapons. First contracts were successfully concluded and we supply heavy Tatra trucks, of which several hundred were supplied this year, and we will continue to supply them. Taking other countries into account, it is expected that our trade will be extended—this means the extension of not only our suppleis but also our import from those other countries. [passage omitted

Havel Condems Events in Riga; Pact Discussed

LD2101212791 Prague CTK in English 1438 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 21 (CTK)—Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel has expressed deep regret over Sunday's events in Riga during which at least four persons lost lives according to the first reports, Presidential Spokesman Michael Zantovsky told journalists at a briefing here today.

In his statement Vaclav Havel called on President Gorbachev and the Soviet Government to put an end to violence and to solve all points at issue by democratic means. Czechoslovakia as a Warsaw Pact member could no longer bear co-responsibility for the use of arms of another member country against its own population.

Dealing with Czechoslovakia's security in connection with the current developments in the Soviet Union Michael Zantovsky said that in his New Year's address the Czechoslovak president spoke of the country's effort at a closer cooperation with the NATO countries and NATO as an organization, and said that Czechoslovakia's foreign policies will develop in this respect this year, the presidential spokesman pointed out.

Zantovsky dealt with the future of the Warsaw Pact saying that what will replace it "will not probably be a regional structure, we will not return to the idea of a sanitary cordon, to the idea of the little entente" (political, economic and military alliance formed by Czechoslovakia, Romania and Yugoslavia in 1920-21 against Germany, Austria, Hungary and Italy). He said that Czechoslovakia views security in Europe on the basis of an all-European security system whose part it wants to be. Bilateral or multilateral agreements between states will be part of this system, he said. Czechoslovakia is interested in close cooperation with Hungary and Poland in all spheres, including security. "We do not want to create a new structure separate from other security structures in Europe, such as the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) or NATO," Zantovsky said.

According to him, the establishment of this close cooperation should be on the agenda of a planned Czechoslovak-Polish-Hungarian summit. Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel supports the holding of this summit, exerting efforts at convening it as soon as possible.

Zantovsky said that according to information he got this morning there is no real danger of a conspiracy of the former Czechoslovak "STB" secret police and the Soviet Army.

Foreign Minister, Soviet Envoy Discuss Lithuania

LD1901205391 Prague CTK in English 1748 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 19 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier received here today Soviet Ambassador Boris Pankin who conveyed to him a Soviet Government statement on Lithuania saying that everything is being done to prevent repetition of the events in the republic or anywhere else.

The statement also stresses that the Soviet Union will in no case abandon the process of restructuring.

Dienstbier told Pankin that in his view these questions should be discussed on the broad all-European platform of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE).

He informed the Soviet ambassador to Czechoslovakia of what had inspired the convocation of the coming meeting of the foreign ministers of Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia due in Visegrad, Hungary, on Monday.

The minister also invited his Soviet counterpart Aleksandr Bessmertynkh, appointed Soviet foreign minister earlier this week, for an official visit to Czechoslovakia.

Pankin acquainted Dienstbier with the Soviet stance on the Iraqi missile attack on Israel, warning against attempts to solve a problem at the cost of another one, and calling on the Iraqi Government to take a realistic stand. The Soviet Union hopes that the Israeli Government will display restraint, and urges once again a peaceful solution to the Kuwaiti crisis on the basis of the U.N. Security Council resolution.

Lithuanian Official Receives Assurance of Support

AU2101160191 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 18 Jan 91 p 2

[CTK report in the "Briefly" column]

[Text] During their meeting yesterday, Zdenek Matejka, CSFR deputy minister of foreign affairs, assured Czeslaw Okinczyc, deputy to the Lithuanian parliament, that the CSFR would continue to recognize only the freely elected Lithuanian legislature and the government approved by it.

Ministry Calls For End to Baltic Violence

LD2101172391 Prague CTK in English 1655 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 21 9CTK)—The Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry today called upon responsible Soviet officials to halt the violence in the Baltic republics, and appealed for the settlement of problems in a democratic way.

Following Sunday's action by a special police unit in the Latvian capital of Riga, in which five persons were killed and others were injured, Deputy Foreign Minister Vojtech Wagner today summoned Soviet Ambassador to Czechoslovakia Boris Pankin to the Foreign Ministry and expressed surprise that the action took place despite an official statement of the Soviet Government, conveyed by Pankin to the Czechoslovak foreign minister Saturday, stating that the Soviet Government would do its utmost to prevent the tragic events in Lithuania from being repeated.

The Czechoslovak side is of the opinion that the violent steps in the Baltic republics have an adverse effect on both development in the USSR itself and on its international position and relations with other countries, as well as on the overall climate in Europe.

Pithart Comments on Warsaw Pact Membership

AU1801134591 Prague CTK in English 1705 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 16 (CTK)—"Our membership of the Warsaw Pact together with Hungary and Poland is connected with our history", Czech Prime Minister Petr Pithart told journalists here today.

At a meeting with journalists held within a session of the Czech Government Petr Pithart said that the Central European countries should take coordinated steps as regards the future of the Pact but stressed that he "would not make this the main condition for a decision which is fully in the hands of the Federal Assembly".

Dealing with the situation in power supplies in the Czech Republic in the light of the Persian Gulf crisis, Pithart said "we are prepared to react to all kinds of situations... And we took steps also as regards the protection of important plants. So far the Army protects about forty such installations which is insufficient". He added that there are about 440 such plants which need protection against possible terrorist attacks and that the army must help protect them.

Asked about a possible disintegration of the government coalition (Civic Forum, Christian Democratic Union and Movement for Self-Government Democracy Society for Moravia and Silesia) hinted by the society for Moravia and Silesia, Pithart said that the question of remaining of Czech minister of state control Bohumil Tichy in the government is the question of relations between this society and himself personally. His recall from the cabinet by the Czech National Council Presidium would have to be based on the vote of nonconfidence for which there exists no reason. The main problem of Moravia and Silesia, striving for a higher degree of self-government is that Moravia lacks unity of views. Civic Forum's organizations from all over Moravia are meeting these days, Petr Pithart said adding that it is clear already now that the establishment of land administration bodies is in the offing.

Czech Minister of Trade and Tourism Vlasta Stepova dealt with the situation on the home market where food prices rocketed in the wake of the introduction of price deregulation on January 1, 1991. In this connection she noted that the sale of milk dropped by 30 70 per cent, meat and meat products by 50 70 per cent and the demand for cheese by about 80 per cent. She regretted that privatization in trade did not precede liberalization of prices and said that so far the only solution is to let producers sell their goods themselves.

Property Main Problem of Soviet Withdrawal

AU1801134791 Prague CTK in English 2009 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 16 (CTK)—Chairman of the Czechoslovak mixed commission for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia Michael Kocab (Civic Forum) said in parliament today that the main problem of the withdrawal now is settlement of property questions.

The Czechoslovak side estimates the value of Soviet property on Czechoslovak territory at some 1,000 million crowns while the Soviets speak about 4,000 to 5,000 million crowns. A substantial part of the Soviet troops have left the country and all combat units will have withdrawn by February 26, 1991, Kocab stressed.

Deputy chairman of the commission Miroslav Sychra (Civic Forum) said that there is a zero probability of a conflict with the rest of Soviet troops on Czechoslovak territory.

Defense Minister Lubos Dobrovsky said that, in his opinion, the Czechoslovak anti-chemical unit in Saudi

Arabia should be reinforced and that the Federal Defense Ministry has already been taking steps to this end.

Dienstbier Leaves for Meeting in Budapest

LD2001195291 Prague CTK in English 1534 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 20 (CTK)—Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier told CTK today he hopes the date of a Czechoslovak-Polish-Hungarian summit at Visegrad, Hungary, will be set at his tomorrow's meeting with his Polish and Hungarian counterparts in Budapest.

A declaration on cooperation of the three countries is to be signed at the summit.

Before going to Budapest, where he left later today, Dienstbier said that he and his Polish and Hungarian counterparts will also discuss a joint attitude at talks on European security structures, as concerns both the Warsaw Treaty and the whole Helsinki process. The three countries should also cooperate in defining their attitude to the Council of Europe, the European Communities and also the U.S.A., the minister said.

He noted that Western partners would like to see the countries of Central Europe being capable of reaching agreement and of cooperation, not heading for destabilization and Balkanization.

Speaking about endeavour to quickly withdraw from the Warsaw Pact, Dienstbier said it is not motivated by the apprehension of a Soviet attack on the former socialist states. "I think the political situation neither in Europe nor in the Soviet Union is such as to inspire any Soviet invasion of Central Europe," the minister said.

He also rejected any attempt to link the current initiatives for dismantling the Warsaw Pact to the events in the Baltics.

Dienstbier said that a timetable has been agreed upon for disbanding the Warsaw Pact, but it has not been fulfilled since last November. The Pact's political consultative committee has been due to meet, but it has been postponed several times at the request of the Soviet Union.

"If we want to honour the July 1, 1991 deadline for dismantling the Warsaw Pact's military structure, we must start negotiate more intensively," Dienstbier said.

Commenting on the "digital" war in the Gulf, the minister thought that allied attacks are targeted on specific military forces in order to make it still possible for Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait. But he did not dare predict when this could happen since Husayn's psyche is unpredictable, as Dienstbier said.

EC Provides Funds for Environmental Projects

AU2101130591 Prague CTK in English 1519 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 18 (CTK)—An agreement between the European Communities (EC) and Czechoslovakia under which the EC will provide 30 million ECU for the realization of 17 environmental projects was signed here today by EC Commissioner Carlo Ripa di Meana and federal government Minister Josef Vavrousek, chairman of the Federal Committee for the Environment.

The money goes to Czechoslovakia within the framework of the PHARE-1 [Economic Restructuring Aid for Poland and Hungary; Czechoslovakia has applied for membership] program which is designed for support of the Central and East European countries. In contrast to the other countries Czechoslovakia plans to spend a major part of the sum on ecological projects, e.g., centers for the liquidation of toxic waste, creation of a monitoring system of the quality of rivers, etc.

Under the PHARE-2 program, to be specified by the end of January 1991, the EC should provide 100 million ECU, i.e., about 120 million U.S. dollars, in aid to Czechoslovakia.

Fire at Nuclear Plant; No Radiation Leak

LD1601212791 Prague CTK in English 1521 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Bratislava Jan 16 (CTK)—Director of the nuclear power plants at Jaslovske Bohunice, West Slovakia, Juraj Kmosena told CTK here today that a fire broke out in the second unit of the V-1 plant on Tuesday, but was put out soon.

According to the director, the fire erupted at a 0.4 kw switchboard which is now being repaired. At the same time the second unit of V-1 was shut down.

Kmosena said that no radioactivity leaked within the plant's complex or to its surroundings. It is envisaged to restart the second unit within four days.

The plant's director told CTK that by the scale of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) this occurrence is assessed as an accident of the first to the second degree of the seven-degree table of nuclear power plants' failures (the seventh degree being the highest)

Director of the nuclear power plants at Jaslovske Bohunice, west Slovakia, Juraj Kmosena also told CTK today that the plant's specialists ascribe the fire, which erupted at the V-1 plant yesterday, to damaged internal insulation of a Czechoslovak-made circuit breaker which caused a small short circuit that led to the ionization of the air. This caused development of the short circuit and the eventual fire.

A group of specialists has been engaged in definitive specification of the cause of the fire, Kmosena added.

His assurance that no radioactivity leaked during the accident to the plant's complex or to its surroundings was confirmed later today also by the secretariat of the minister of the Czechoslovak Government, achairman of the Federal Committee for the Environment, Josef Vavrousek.

The Jaslovske Bohunice nuclear power plant is the oldest one in Czechoslovakia. Put into service in the 1970's, it has Soviet-made equipment.

Situated only some 50 kilometres from the Austrian border, it has been the target of an intensive anti-nuclear campaign in Austria for several months. At the end of last year, the Austrian side demanded its immediate closure for safety reasons. However, several foreign teams of specialists, including those of Siemens (FRG), Westinghouse (U.S.A.) and the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) recently conducted inspections at Jaslovske Bohunice finding no reason for an immediate shutdown.

The Czechoslovak Government recently said the plant would not be closed down, but recommendations to raise its safety, made by the foreign firms, will be carried out.

There is a another nuclear plant at Dukovany, south Moravia, and two more are being constructed: at Mochovce, west Slovakia, and Temelin, south Bohemia. The construction of others is being considered since Czechoslovakia now heavily depends for electricity on thermal plants which burn low-quality brown coal causing serious damage to the environment. The new plants would be built by contemporary standards now applied in western countries which would also supply the equipment.

The nuclear power plants now account for 25 per cent of all electric power generation in Czechoslovakia.

Recently, Czechoslovak Premier Marian Calfa invited Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky to Czechoslovakia for talks on the issue, proposing the end of January or beginning of February as the date for the meeting.

Director Dismisses Danger

AU1801172191 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 16 Jan 91 p 3

[Interview with Juraj Kmosena, director of Jaslovske Bohunice nuclear power plant, by Lubo Rabay; place and date not given: "It Was Just a Commonplace Accident"; first paragraph is PRAVDA introduction]

[Text] In a news bulletin yesterday morning, Czechoslovak Radio carried a brief report on an accident in a V-1 block at the Jaslovske Bohunice Nuclear Power Plant. Although this was not a serious accident, we asked Engineer Juraj Kmosena, director of the Jaslovske Bohunice Nuclear Power Plant, to give us more information.

[Kmosena] A 0.4 kilovolt distributor in the second block of the V-1 power plant was damaged; several electronic appliances are connected to it. We noticed the problem on Tuesday [15 January] afternoon. A flawed circuit breaker in the distributor caused a short circuit and a fire in part of the equipment's cabling and connectors. After immediately examining the cause of the accident, the staff shut the block down.

[Rabay] How do you characterize the seriousness of the accident from the point of view of nuclear safety?

[Kmosena] This was a relatively commonplace distributor problem in the electronic equipment and has no connection with nuclear safety. Despite this, we evaluated the problem in accordance with the seven-grade international evaluating system. According to these grades, this was an accident between the first and second grades—that is, between the lowest danger levels this system defines as a mere incident.

[Rabay] What does the accident mean as far at the plant's operation is concerned?

[Kmosena] The plant's second block will be closed down for about four days. Electronic maintenance staff have already removed the fire damaged cables and connectors and are installing new ones.

Manager Denies Sabotage Theory

LD1801165391 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1100 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Petr Toman report from Jaslovske Bohunice nuclear power plant; date not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] In connection with a fire at one of the V-1 unit distributors, theories have arisen that this may have been a planned terrorist act, a specific example of the proclaimed Husayn revenge on the countries that sent their units to war against Iraq.

Juraj Komosena, director of the nuclear power plant enterprise, unanimously refuted this version. At issue was exclusively a technical fault. Distribution panels, where the fire started, are located in a place with difficult access. Moreover, since 11 January—or five days before the fire—the power station has been, in the context of emergency security measures, guarded by troops and policemen. Fifteen electricians today are repairing the cable network and circuit breakers in the distribution panels where the fire occurred. The new equipment must, first of all, be tested and the second bloc of the V-1 unit should be restarted around Friday. [passage omitted]

Czech, Slovak Parties Disagree On Investigations

AU1801135391 Prague CTK in English 1726 GMT 15 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 15 (CTK)—All Czech political parties, represented in the Czechoslovak Parliament, agree with the vetting of all deputies, members of the Federal,

Czech and Slovak Governments and other central bodies, while the opinions of Slovak parties on the issue are not so clear-cut.

The vetting is aimed at exposing persons who collaborated with the now dismantled "StB" secret police under the former regime.

In a survey conducted by the Czechoslovak news agency CTK, concerning a January 10 parliamentary decision on vetting, the ruling Civic Forum agreed with the opposition Communist Party of Czechoslovakia on the need to introduce legislation on the vetting. The Communist Party believes it should be passed by the supreme court and general prosecution to prevent "anyone from being harmed unjustly" and that the presumption of innocence regarding all vetted persons should be respected.

The Czechoslovak People's Party and the Civic Forum suggest the vetting to be extended to bodies of the judiciary, security, Army and state administration.

According to the parliamentary commission investigating the events of November 17, 1989, which led to the downfall of the communist regime, there were over 100,000 agents or informers of the "StB" in Czechoslovakia. The commission has at its disposal registers of ties, i.e. Notes about the character of collaboration with the "StB".

As regards the Slovak parties, the separatist Slovak National Party clearly favors the vetting while the Slovak Communist Party (in contrast to the Federal Communist Party of Czechoslovakia) is opposed to it as vetting took place already before last year's parliamentary elections.

The Democratic Party, active only in the Slovak Parliament and government, favors the vetting though, it believes, it should have a form of excluding any doubts about collaboration with the "StB".

The Public Against Violence movement was not surveyed by CTK but Slovak premier Vladimir Meciar, a Public Against Violence representative, on Sunday described vetting as a "means of political struggle" waged by "certain extremist groups". He said his government would give consent to the vetting provided that all archives that are now in Prague are returned to Slovakia and that the vetting is conducted by an unbiased commission of experts who would prevent their misuse in questionable cases.

The federal parliament's decision of January 10 concerns the vetting of all deputies, members of the Federal Government and their deputies, the staff of the Parliament's Office and the Czechoslovak Government Presidium. The bodies of the Czech and the Slovak republics are expected to assume a stand on the issue separately.

Czech Assembly Approves Investigations

LD1801094391 Prague CTK in English 0657 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Prague Jan 18 (CTK)—The Czech parliament adopted late last night a resolution demanding that all its deputies, members of the Czech Government, the parliament's deputies, members of the Czech Government, the parliament's office, Czech prosecutors and judges be screened in order to exclude collaborators with the former secret police (StB) from top posts.

Earlier, partial screening was carried out in Czechoslovakia at various levels, but recently, the parliamentary commission investigating the November 17, 1989 events in Czechoslovakia said that newly found documents prove that some high placed persons collaborated with the StB. Therefore, the federal parliament voted last week to order all parliamentary deputies, Czechoslovak Government ministers and their staffs to be screened.

The federal parliament did not impose the instruction for screening on the Czech and Slovak Republics, the two constituent parts of the Czechoslovak Federation, leaving it up to them to decide by themselves on the question.

Earlier yesterday, the Czech Parliament reconstructed its presidium, a step made necessary according to its re-elected chairwoman Dagmar Buresova by a considerable shift to the right in the civic Forum (the decisive political force in the Czech Republic) and in the whole society as well.

Calfa Comments on Investigations

AU2101121291 Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak 12 Jan 91 p 2

[Report on interview with CSFR Prime Minister Marian Calfa by Jiri Bigas; in Prague; date not given: "Everyone Has Agreed"]

[Text] Prague—"The legislature has begun to discuss the screening of all government members. Minister Jan Langos asked me at a government session whether it would not be desirable—in the interest of our being able to work in peace—to anticipate the legislature's intention." This was Prime Minister Marian Calfa's reply to a question, which was asked yesterday by CTK reporter Jiri Bigas, on why federal government members should be screened, "I mentioned this to the other government members because I wanted to win their approval. Everyone agreed and Minister Langos went to the Interior Ministry to screen them."

"I have to say, however," continued the prime minister, "that, so far, the screenings have not been completed and we will return to them again, even though government members—especially those who campaigned in the elections—have already been screened, and it can be guaranteed that, from this point of view, everything is in order," he emphasized.

Trade Officials Explain Reasons for Shortages

AU1801205091

[Editorial Report] Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak on 11 January, page 7, carries a 1,200-word article by Eva Saboova and Peter Novak from the Slovak Ministry of Trade and Tourism entitled "The Abnormal Has Become the Norm." The article discusses reasons for the acute shortage of consumer goods in Slovakia.

The first factor, according to the authors, is excessive dependence on domestic consumer goods manufacturers. Whereas "advanced countries" import between 30 and 40 percent of consumer goods, 90 percent of supplies to the Czechoslovak market comes from domestic manufacturers.

The second reason, they say, is that in the last five years the growth rate of consumer goods deliveries trailed "about 10 to 15 percent behind the growth rate of retail trade turnover." The rapid increase in retail sales in 1990 could not be offset by growing supplies due to the shortage of capacities at home and because of lack of funds for consumer goods imports: "This has widened the gap between supply and demand for consumer goods to the maximum limit; furthermore, the fragile, artificially maintained stability on the domestic consumer goods market has collapsed like a house of cards. Acting at will with their basic economic interests, retailers have been forced to sell at the expense of the depletion of their stocks. In October 1990, for example, stocks of oil and fats dropped to between 31 and 70 percent of the norm, stocks of sugar to between 35 and 48 percent, and stocks of salt to between 19 and 43 percent. The drop in the level of inventories has caused a disruption of supplies."

According to the authors, the situation has been made worse by the expected impact of the economic reform. While consumers have stocked up on many goods in expectation of higher prices, wholesalers have been cutting the orders of individual shop managers.

Saboova and Novak also explain why "the supply situation in the Czech Republic is better" than in Slovakia. The main reason, they say, is the "more advantageous structure of production in the Czech Republic." In 1988, for example, the Czech Republic produced 11,300 korunas worth of consumer goods per capita, compared with 9,700 korunas in Slovakia. The difference of 1,600 korunas per capita adds up to 8 billion korunas for Slovakia as a whole, which is an amount that "cannot be overlooked on our generally undersaturated market." Another factor, according to the authors, is that "most" monopoly manufacturers of consumers goods in the CSFR are situated in the Czech Republic.

Slovak Government Accused of Antireform Step

AU1801195091 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 15 Jan 91 p 3

[Marcela Doleckova commentary: "They Are Serious"]

[Excerpts] There exist a few principles which are so obvious that they have never been questioned within the debate on the economy's transformation. One of them is the acute, urgent, and unpostponable need for competition. [passage omitted]

Following the liberalization of prices, we now have competition not only among the "Potraviny" [Food], "Pramen" [Source], and "Jednota" [Unity] retailing organizations and Mr. Novak's store but also—at least in a rudimentary way—even between some producers. And here a paradoxical thing occurred: Slovak agricultural enterprises are exasperated because cheaper farm products from Bohemia have made their way into Slovakia and are pushing Slovak agricultural enterprises out of the market. The Slovak government—acting, I assume, under the pressure of the minister of agriculture—is responding to this situation in a truly peculiar way. It has appropriated 42 million korunas in support of the agricultural sector, which will receive 1.40 korunas for every liter of milk sold. My opinion is that ministries should not be institutions that will, once again, be establishing greenhouse conditions for enterprises under their jurisdiction. I am afraid that the Slovak government's decision is a major antireform step which destroys the first modest fruits of the reform before they are ripe. The decision may have been taken only for a period of transition, but this does not change its essence. All the more so as it is not irrelevant, from the viewpoint of the federation, whether the budget of either republic will run up a deficit.

Criticism of Meciar Leadership Hopes Rejected

AU1801164191 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 12 Jan 91 p 3

[Igor Cibula commentary: "Who Does the Public Support?"]

[Text] The interview with psychologist Gustav Matijek—published by VEREJNOST in its regular supplement three days ago—can be regarded as a particularly interesting contribution to the discussion inspired by Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar's aspirations to the most senior post in the Public Against Violence [VPN] movement. While this expert on the "psychology of post-totalitarian man" described Jan Carnogursky, leader of the Christian Democrats, as a "gray eminence waiting to see how everything will turn out so that he may be the winner," in connection with the Slovak prime minister's policy, he expressed his anxiety that "Meciar shows signs of development toward totalitarianism."

It is necessary to quote more comprehensively from the aforementioned expert who literally states the following in his interview: "I would not identify Prime Minister Meciar at this stage with VPN policy. I have the feeling that he is already choosing his own direction. He is such a powerful figure that he can bank on the general public and not on a political party or, if you want, a political movement." The author's warning about the risk of

development toward a totalitarian system is certainly not being presented to the public as a mere coincidence at the very moment when leading figures within the VPN are refusing to support Meciar's candidacy for the movement's leadership with the justification that an accumulation of posts could lead to a considerable concentration of political power in his hands. If this opinion is to be generally accepted as an argument, it does not indicate too much faith in our democracy's existing mechanisms.

Meciar's motivation for taking the VPN's helm directly stems from his attempt to halt certain unfavorable trends in the public's attitudes toward the movement and to give it a new dynamic charge. The VPN Coordinating Center, however, is afraid that—as a partner of Civic Forum [OF] Chairman Vaclav Klaus—the Slovak prime minister could cause problems in the OF-VPN coalition relationship. His unequivocal talks with Czech representatives—or rather, with representatives from the federal executive—are, perhaps, unappealing to those who, in the process of Czechoslovak harmony, prefer a more restrained diplomacy and unemotional dialogue.

The other objections raised by Meciar's opponents are not worth mentioning as they are simply associated with the rival ambitions of his critics. It is impossible, however, to accept the rebuke concerning the public airing of the problems facing the VPN and its leadership. After all, this movement was the leader in the revolt against the totalitarian regime and in the parliamentary elections it won the most votes in Slovakia. Democratic stability requires it retain its influence to an extent corresponding to the authority of its natural leaders. Prime Minister Meciar is one of them, although it seems to some people that his policy is moving in a different direction from the original VPN orientation. His indisputable authority among the general public, however, proves that it supports him.

Meciar: Slovakia To Seek Closer Foreign Ties

LD1901163691 Prague CTK in English 1453 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Bratislava Jan 18 (CTK)—Slovak Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar told journalists here today that Slovakia will display effort in 1991 to penetrate on the international scene and to build firmer ties with other states.

Reviewing last year, Meciar said that the effort to introduce Slovakia more extensively in the world failed which he ascribed partially to disinformation caused by the mass media, specifically two Prague papers: independent daily LIDOVE NOVINY and weekly of the Civic Forum FORUM. Slovakia is presented as an unstable country of nationalists and separatists who seek nothing else but disintegration of Czechoslovakia, Meciar said. He was apparently hinting to last year's disputes over power-sharing between bodies of the Czechoslovak federation and the national republics (Czech and Slovak) which threatened to develop into a constitutional crisis.

Meciar said this situation is unacceptable from both political and economic points of view as it discourages foreign investments. Speaking about Slovaks living abroad, Meciar said that no economic assistance can be expected from them. On the contrary, they indicate that they themselves would need material and cultural assistance from their homeland. This concerns especially Slovaks in Romania, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia.

The prime minister pointed to the role which the media can play in building public opinion, and urged quick and objective flow of information between the two constituent national republics of Czechoslovakia.

Iraqi Missile Attack on Israel Condemned

LD1801185191 Budapest MTI in English 1751 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 18 (MTI)—The Hungarian Foreign Ministry condemns Iraq's missile attack against Israel.

The provocative act, aimed at civilians only, was directed against a country that had kept clear of any military involvement.

As we have already stressed in a government statement on Thursday, Hungary still hopes that the military conflict can be limited in both time and space, the Foreign Ministry statement says.

The inter-ministerial committee, dealing with the Hungarians staying in the Gulf region, considers it necessary to take certain security measures because of the Iraqi missile attack against Israel, it was stated at the session of the commitee on Friday.

Accordingly, the majority of Hungarians officially staying in Tel Aviv, are to spend the following nights outside of town, including members of the staff at the Hungarian Embassy. Only a few staff members are to stay in town to ensure the proper functioning of the embassy.

The Hungarian ambassador has received instructions to organize the evacuation.

Defense Spokesman: Israeli Response 'Justified'

LD1901221191 Budapest MTI in English 2034 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 19 (MTI)—I feel that the Israeli intention and political aspiration to retaliate the political provocation and aggression against the country in one way or another is totally justified. Yet, I think what is needed now is self-discipline and restraint. Nobody wants this war to extend any further. It has brought far enough devastation even so far, and no larger areas will hopefully come under a state of war, Colonel Gyorgy Keleti, spokesman for the Hungarian Ministry of Defense, said on the Saturday evening television newsreel in reply to a question about the chance of an Israeli retaliatory action after the Iraqi missile attacks.

Jeszenszky Interviewed on Gulf, Domestic Issues

AU2201104091 Budapest MTI in English 1850 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Jeszensky by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] Budapest, 19 Jan (MTI)—"The statements made by Hungary's political leadership, including the president, the prime minister and myself, clearly indicate that we completely support the international coalition at pains to put a halt to aggression," Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky said in an interview with Saturday's "NEPSZABADSAG".

"We are hopeful of the conflict coming to an end shortly, after which negotiations can start on the security system to be set up in the Gulf region and on ways of eliminating earlier hotbeds of tension. Therefore, the inclusion of any new elements in the conflict would obviously obstruct settlement of the crisis. I condemn the attack launched against the sovereign state of Israel from the moral point of view and on the basis of international law alike," the first man in Hungarian diplomacy stated.

Asked about a possible postponement of Prime Minister Jozsef Antall's visit to Moscow scheduled for next month because of the Gulf war, Jeszenszky said, "We are planning no such change."

Apropos the Hungarian-Czechoslovak-Polish foreign ministerial meeting due in Budapest on Monday, the newspaper's correspondent asked Geza Jeszenszky, "How do you assess your Czechoslovak colleague's proposal in connection with the baltic events that the three countries should leave the Warsaw Treaty at the same time?"

The foreign minister replied, "As will be remembered, we were the first to raise this idea and the relevant schedule was also worked out at our initiative. Hungary continues to hold the view that the military treaty should be abrogated as soon as possible and political cooperation reduced to a consultative level, after which the Warsaw Treaty would be dissolved as part of a pan-European process. In my opinion, it would be important for this to happen with the consent of the Soviet Union. Failing this, we are going to move independently. I think this remains the most satisfactory schedule for all. As to the Baltic events, we hope that the central government an the particular baltic governments will come to an agreement," Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky said in his interview with Saturday's "NEPSZABADSAG."

Citizens Not To Be Evacuated From Israel

LD1801145791 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Even after the Iraqi missile attack, Hungarian citizens in Israel will not be evacuated. The interministerial committee decided this at a conference held at the Foreign Ministry, having ascertained that the Hungarians in Israel are not in such a dangerous situation as to justify their evacuation.

At home, the police are still on increased alert, although there were no crimes committed in relation to the Gulf crisis. There are more false reports coming in than normal about terrorist activities under preparation. Checking out these reports demands significantly increased efforts from the authorities.

'Bloodshed in Vilnius', Perestroyka Viewed

AU2101154591 Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 16 Jan 91 p 5

[Csaba Poor editorial: "Perestoy!"]

[Text] It seems that Shevardnadze has turned out to be a prophet—this was an exclamation made by an employee at the Moscow mission of the Lithuanian Government during an assessment of the bloodshed in Vilnius on the morning of Sunday, 13 January. Naturally, the departing foreign minister cannot really be seen as a prophet, Shevardnadze could not have predicted the tragic events in Lithuania, but his bitter warning of the increased threat of a dictatorship is more topical in the Soviet Union than it ever had been during the past few months.

The bloodshed in Vilnius is a challenge, but we still do not know exactly who it was that threw a glove in the face of the other side. Either the generals forced the head of state into a corner, or the president himself decided to teach a lesson to the republics who were refusing to sign the Union Treaty, starting with Lithuania, the republic that is most radically pressing for an exit from the Union. Both these options are equally bad, of course; they both show that in a Soviet Union that pays lip service to democracy, glasnost, and justice, we shall have to expect a completely different order in the future, compared to the order that we witnessed during the last five years.

The aforementioned analyst examined the bloody weekend in Vilnius and claimed that perestroyka had entered a new phase. It is dubious, however, whether we can still talk about perestroyka at all—or, at least in the sense of the word that implies democratic reform—because it may well be that behind the Kremlin walls, the restructuring policy is being restructured.

If the military actions in Lithuania were intended to show off the president's power, then that only shows that the allegedly genial tactical politician Gorbachev has run out of clever tricks. The policy intended to exhaust the independence efforts of the Baltic republics proved to be a failure, and this irritated the president who, ever since his accession to power, must have become used to everything running according to his will. We can believe Gorbachev when he says that he did not want any victims. The ultimatum to the Lithuanian Supreme Council was meant to be a strict warning, but this does not attenuate Gorbachev's responsibility in the least. Indeed, this threatening letter probably only boosted the courage of the local military leadership, which sent its military units, loaded with live ammunition, into battle—allegedly without orders from above.

One can repeatedly affirm that Moscow did not know about anything, and that the president, also acting as commander in chief of the Army, had no idea about the order to fire, but these affirmations are rather pointless. Indeed, that makes it even more frightening: If major generals and lieutenant generals can decide of the fate of a federated republic on their own, then it will most certainly be the will of generals and marshals which will determine the future of the whole country. If they ordered fire in Vilnius, they can order fire in Kiev, Leningrad, and Moscow as well.... There would be some people who would agree to this.

It was alarming to hear a certain representative—a colonel well known for his conservative views—state in the corridors of the Supreme Soviet that it was not the soldiers, but the press that had handled the Vilnius events the wrong way. The representative offered the reporters a bottle of brandy, betting that "not even half the people" numbered in the "blown up" press reports had actually "died in the Lithuanian capital." On the basis of his words, there can be no doubt: The colonel does not regret the bloodshed, and he would order the use of arms in other places as well.

An increasing number of actors on the Soviet political scene are coming to the fore with views similar to these. They would like to see an even greater "Rightward Ho!" in Moscow, and a number of signs indicate that Gorbachev might be in agreement with this. The president is confused by the persistent independence efforts of the republics and the appearance of uncompromising independent politicians on the political scene, because this threatens to make the role of the Soviet head of state merely a matter of protocol, and the president may no longer have any real power over the country. It is also quite possible that Gorbachev, even at this stage, no longer controls the situation. It may well be that— mostly uniformed—powers behind the scene are already issuing orders to Gorbachev in the background, and meanwhile, the president is acquiescing to successive arbitrary military actions—although he may only be acquiescing after the actual events.

All the events that have been taking place in Lithuania, and which have also begun in Latvia, reveal the use of dictatorial methods, not democratic ones; however, the Soviet Union can hardly make the world accept a change like this. Various signs indicate that the Soviet head of state, who has enjoyed great international respect so far, would like to maintain his important position at all cost; he is no longer just taking small steps in the direction of the conservatives, he has clearly joined their ranks. This is still looked upon with pleasure by the forces that want to restore order. Gorbachev's person is acceptable and essential to them as long as perestroyka still has the tiniest bit of prestige abroad, particularly in developed capitalist countries. Gorbachev, however, will only be acceptable to these forces as long as that is the case, and not for a minute longer, because presumably, even this Gorbachev is too liberal for the hard-line conservative core.

Nevertheless, restructuring has not only begun in Soviet domestic policy, it also has inevitable consequences on the Soviet Union's foreign policy. The Western myth depicting Gorbachev as an angel of peace and a realist statesman of great dimensions is now starting to

crumble. An increasing number of people are probably beginning to see Gorbachev as a politician who, to the very end, desperately tries to keep the Union together with an iron fist; he does not realize that the firmer his grip, the greater the danger of a simple collapse of the Union. The very reason why the president opposes "the parading of sovereignty" and the independence efforts of the federated republics is because this would necessarily lead to conflicts and bloodshed; Gorbachev does not realize—or does not want to realize—that the forceful preservation of the Union and the prevention of natural developments pushes the Soviet Union toward an even greater tragedy.

Prime Minister Antall Presents New Government

AU2101130391 Budapest MTI in English 1711 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, 18 January (MTI)—Hungarian Prime Minister Jozsef Antall introduced three new ministers and three political state secretaries to the press before the usual briefing of the spokesman on Friday.

Elemer Gergatz (Independent Smallholders' Party, FKgP), minister of agriculture, Gyula Kiss (FKgP), minister of labor, and Ferenc Jozsef Nagy (FKgP), minister without portfolio, Tamas Szabo (Hungarian Democratic Forum, MDF), political state secretary of the Ministry of Finance, Gyorgy Schamschula (MDF), political state secretary of the Ministry of Labor, and Balazs Bardos (FKgP), political state secretary of the prime minister's office, outlined their tasks.

The minister and state secretary of labor are to supervise the appropriation of a 9,000 million-forint fund, separated from the budget, for supporting those unemployed. The ministry will pay special attention to the training of skilled workers. (The number of unemployed in Hungary exceeded 82,000 in December 1990.)

The opinion that it was not yet time to fully liberalize wages, due to the inflation generating effects of such a measure, was also expressed, Gyula Kiss said.

The new minister of agriculture said he would like to make Hungarian agriculture competetive on the West European markets and establish a new and "just" structure of land ownership. He said he wanted to replace co-operatives with "leagues" of individual farmers, having their own land.

State Secretary of the Ministry of Finance Peter Kiraly announced that the minister of finance is to submit a new legal ruling on the so-called "existence fund" to the government.

The E-fund is planned to be established from a loan of 100 million German marks by the German Government, with a low rate of interest and a long term maturity, for the benefit of small enrepreneurs. Bonn insisted that the loan be received only by new small and medium-sized enterprises, whereas the Hungarian Government had planned to use it for a wider circle of entrepreneurs.

Financial leaders hope to receive the loan from Germany in February, but until then, they are launching the E-fund with the help of the National Bank of Hungary.

The Hungarian Government considers the EEC and EFTA as its most important economic partners, but at the same time, it does not want to lose its former partners either, namely the members of the former CEMA.

As the economic views of Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland are similar to each other, these countries are planning to make the area covered by them into a free trade area.

There will be several consultations to prepare this, the first one being the meeting of the foreign ministers of the three countries in Budapest on 21 January, Government Spokesman Balazs Laszlo said.

Tax Increase To Cause Gasoline Price Increase

LD1501193591 Budapest MTI in English 1330 GMT 14 Jan 91

[Text] Budapest, January 14, 1991 (MTI-ECONEWS)—According to sources at Bothe Afor [as received] and Shell, petrol prices will go up in Hungary from Thursday [17 January].

Following the approval by parliament of the 1991 budget, an increase in consumer tax on fuel is likely to result in 92-octane petrol rising from 47 to 56 forints.

Although the import, trade and pricing of fuel has been liberalized in Hungary this year, distributors will still have to pass on the tax increase to consumers since the profit margin is estimated at a mere 2 forints.

The consumer tax, which was previously between 21 and 26 forints per litre depending on the octane, will be a uniform 33.2 forints from Thursday. At the same time, in order to soften the effect, the government has reduced the road fund contribution from 6.2 to 3.2 forints per litre.

The consumer tax brought in revenues of 50 billion forints last year and is expected to represent around 75 billion forints in 1991.

Last year there were two rises, from 29.5 to 35.5 forints per litre in July and to 47 forints in October. In the latter case the government had originally fixed the price at 59 forints, but a nationwide blockade by transporters forced it to cut the price back by 12 forints.

Government Condemns Iraqi Attack on Israel

LD1801201691 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 1830 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] The Polish Government decisively condemns Iraq's attack on Israel. We treat this as a provocative and dangerous attempt to widen the conflict in the Persian Gulf region. This is a successive example of the breaking of international law by Iraq. This has been stated by the Polish Government spokesman. Poland firmly demands an end to Iraq's occupation of Kuwait, which is the necessary condition for the restoration of peace in this region.

Authorities Step Up Security Measures

LD1801202591 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 1830 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] [Announcer] Protection of state offices and diplomatic bases has been strengthened. At the Israeli Embassy there is a system of electronic security, patrols and permanent contacts with command posts at crisis headquarters. A similar situation exists at the U.S. Embassy. There have never been so many security measures at the Marriott Hotel—but they are secret. Police patrols have been strengthened at the Central Railway Station. A group of bomb experts from units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs is on permanent standby. The Warsaw Okecie International Airport is under the protection of policemen and an antiterrorist group. They have machineguns, bayonets, bullet-proof vests and permanent radio contact. They patrol not only the airport building.

[Unidentified speaker] Have there been any terrorists attempts on the airport?

[Second unidentified speaker] No, sir, not since the war in Kuwait began.

[First unidentified speaker] What does security at the airport depend on?

[Second unidentified speaker] It is a twofold type of security—an internal and an external one.

[First speaker] Who can enter the airport?

[Second speaker] Only those passengers who have valid tickets and passports can enter the airport. We apologize to those seeing them off. Unfortunately, they have to wait outside.

[First speaker] In these circumstances, does the terrorist have a chance?

[Second speaker] In my opinion, no. In principle, we guard the airport quite tightly, and I do not think anyone can get through.

[Announcer] The Office of State Protection says that there have been no terrorist actions in Poland in connection with the war in the Persian Gulf.

Foreign Ministry on Country's Presence in Gulf

LD1801164491 Warsaw PAP in English 1516 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 18—None of the Poles living in Israel suffered during the Iraqi attack on Israel last night, a Polish Foreign Ministry official told PAP.

Andrzej Majkowski said that Polish soldiers perform their service in the Golan Heights as usual. No military operations are carried out in the neighbourhood of the military hospital in Saudi Arabia where the Polish medical staff are employed.

Two Polish ships "Piast" and "Wodnik" put in a port in the Red Sea and most probably they will set off for the Gulf tonight.

The Poles on contracts in the United Arab Emirates also work as usual while thirty-six employees of the road and bridge constructing company "Dromex", who were evacuated to Istanbul, are expected to arrive in Warsaw from Vienna tonight, Majkowski said.

Commentary on Iraqi Strategy in Gulf

LD1801144291 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0900 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Andrzej Zychowicz commentary]

[Excerpts] The [Gulf] war is beginning to enter a new stage. One can now initially evaluate the strategy chosen by Saddam Husayn. First, he wants to draw Israel into the war so that the whole image of the conflict will be changed, giving it the character of a struggle against Israel and the United States on behalf of the Arab world. Saddam also hopes to create the impression that the war will be long and that, in the course of the conflict, the Arab countries will liberate themselves from foreign domination. One may suppose, therefore, that Saddam Husayn counts on being able to survive, despite the heavy bombing and rocket attacks. Let us recall that the air strikes hit their chosen military and economic targets and thus do not have a terrorist character. In spite of President Bush's statement that the time has not yet come for the land forces to act, the allies are faced with the problem of putting them into action. The B-52 bombardment against the Iraqi Army in Kuwait may be the preparation for such an attack.

Why is the use of land forces necessary? Because only in this way can the war be made shorter, thus thwarting Saddam Husayn's plan to stretch it out for as long as possible. According to the first assumption, the air war was to last up to a week. But it is not known whether in such a situation the land attack will take place earlier. As far as the effectiveness of the air offensive is concerned, one has to say that, despite the massive character of these strikes we are seeing in Iraq and Kuwait, the air force alone cannot win the war. It is necessary to beat the enemy on the battlefield.

What is noteworthy is that eight of those Scud rockets, the Iraqi rockets which exploded in Tel Aviv and in the area of Haifa, were not armed with gas warheads. Some experts believe, for instance, that Iraq cannot arm their long-range missiles with warheads of this type—there simply do not have the technical capabilities.

Thus the question arises of whether the land forces attack will take place. How will the Iraqi Army fight? Editor Sikora has gathered the assessments of military experts. Let us listen to them:

[Begin Sikora recording] According to an unofficial—I stress, an unofficial—opinion of our military experts, poor equipment in the Iraqi Army can be confirmed. A gas attack is possible but probably only several dozen kilometers into Saudi territory. Although the Iraqis also have Soviet medium-range missiles as well as their own Scud-B, everything points to the fact that they cannot arm them with gas warheads. Iraqi armor, which includes T-72 tanks, is made up of the old-fashioned T-55 and T-62 tanks. It does not look too effective when compared with the allies.

Assuming that the war will take place mainly in the air, it is stressed that the Mirage, MiG, and SU aircraft with which the Iraqi Army is equipped cannot match in battle the U.S. F-15 Eagle and F-16 Fighting Falcon. The Iraqi Army's morale, which is much lower than it seems from the TV pictures, is another matter. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Government Protests Violence in Baltic Republics

LD2101211291 Warsaw PAP in English 1816 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 21—The Government of Poland received with deep concern the use of force by Soviet special troops during the attack on Latvia's Internal Ministry last Sunday. These growing acts of violence against the peoples and institutions of the Baltic republics of the USSR arouse the concern of Poland's authorities and the indignation of its people, says a statement issued by the spokesman for the Polish Government.

The Government of the Republic of Poland appeals once again to the Soviet authorities to peacefully settle the problems of the Baltic countries and to respect the aspirations of their peoples.

We express our solidarity and sympathy for the victims of the events and their families, the statement says.

Troop Reinforcements Rumored on Lithuanian Border

LD2201082991 Warsaw PAP in English 2327 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Moscow, Jan. 21—The head of the board of the KGB Frontier Guards I. Kalinitchenko has denied rumours to the effect that the Soviet side has started to reinforce troops in the Lithuanian section of the Soviet-Polish border.

Asked by the IZVESTIYA daily to comment on the Polish press's reports alleging this, he stated that rumours on the appearance of additional units of frontier guards were groundless. So far there has been peace on the Soviet-Polish border, and there is no need of any reinforcement. However, we are closely following the development of the situation in Lithuania, and if the safety of the border and soldiers is threatened, we will take proper steps, he said.

Senate Delegation Departs For Latvia

LD2001224191 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 2145 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] [Announcer] At the invitation of the Supreme Council a Senate delegation, including Speaker Andrzej Stelmachowski, has left for Latvia on a two-day visit.

[Begin Stelmachowski recording] This visit has, on the one hand, been anticipated for a long time and is supposed to lead to a tightening of cooperation with the Baltic states. On the other hand, in the situation that has developed, it naturally expresses a certain gesture of solidarity with the Baltic republics. I think that in this way we will register our presence, I am in any case personally deeply convinced that the Baltic should join with all the countries that lie around it rather than divide them. This will be, I hope, the first step in this direction. [end recording]

[Announcer] One of the subjects of the Senate delegation's talks, and not the Sejm as I said, will be to examine the possibilities of economic cooperation between Poland and Latvia.

Senate Speaker on Riga Visit

LD2201081991 Warsaw PAP in English 2322 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan 21—"On Sunday commando troops killed a few people, including two Russians. At this moment it is not a dispute between nationalities, but an ideological one," Senate Speaker Andrzej Stelmachowski said while speaking about a 24-hour visit by a Senate delegation to Riga yesterday. The Senate speaker also spoke about the war scenery in the town and about the determination of its people. "I met with chairman of the Supreme Council of Latvia. A party in our honour was interrupted by shots. A bullet hit the window...We also spoke with the premier. I addressed the parliament."

"We spoke about concrete issues, about the need to open general consulates in Riga and Warsaw, the intensification of the so-called Baltic Council and economic relations. Our visit was received as a gesture of solidarity. It was a significant visit. It is good it has taken place. Such a visit creates mutual bonds that are remembered," the Senate speaker stressed.

Poll Shows Response to 'Intervention' in Lithuania

LD1801044891 Warsaw PAP in English 2338 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 17—Asked what the Polish Government should do after the intervention of Soviet troops in Lithuania, 42 per cent of 2,333 people chosen by chance said it should stop at firm protests, 20 per cent said it should limit relations and 11 per cent opined it should suspend relations with the USSR.

The poll was held today in 57 towns in 33 voivodships by the "Sonda" public opinion private polling centre and was organized by the Centre Alliance.

Answering a question whether in response to the Soviet intervention Poland should consider Lithuania an independent state, 62 per cent said it should, 16 per cent said no.

Another question concerned the attitude towards the war in the Gulf region. 49 per cent said they supported the U.S., 2 per cent said they supported Iraq, 38 per cent were against the war.

Liberal-Democratic Congress on Baltics Elections

AU2101113791 Warsaw PAP in English 2016 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 17—There is no democracy without free and conscious elections. The aim of the presidential council is to enrich society's political awareness, and while treating it as a part of activities aimed at democracy we support the idea that such a council be set up, representatives of the leadership of the Liberal-Democratic Congress told a press conference here today.

Soon, the Congress will appeal to the Sejm (lower house) to pass a decision on self-dissolution and to open the road to the first free parliamentary elections in post-war Poland.

In its statement on the situation in Lithuania, the Congress said that the aggression on the part of Moscow is coupled with unfriendly gestures towards Warsaw manifested in piling extra difficulties for the pullout of Soviet troops from Poland. The public opinion in Poland is also indignant at the outrageous attempts made by the Soviet Union to fabricate new lies about the Katyn crime.

Despite the fact that since June 4, 1989 many people have been replaced, it has proved impossible to fully take over the country from communists. Thus, we think that the emergence of a "fifth column" if the conflict spreads into Poland is possible, reads the statement.

Since power in the Soviet Union is dominated by the Army, we deem it necessary to speed up the nationalization of the Polish Army as there are still no full guarantees of the loyalty of the Armed Forces to the independent Poland, the statement reads.

Increased Security Measures on German Border

LD2001235291 Warsaw TVP Television Network in Polish 1615 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Since Thursday, [17 January] Polish and German border services have been checking all cars and their luggage. Arms and explosive materials are being looked for in particular. The Polish-German border crossing points are manned by German antiterrorist units. In the land border section near Szczecin, the Germans have brought in additional Federal Frontier protection Force units. More precise checks are also being made on the Polish-Czechoslovak border.

USSR Troop Withdrawal Talks Called 'Difficult'

LD1801054991 Warsaw PAP in English 2116 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 17—"Poland has been watching the developments in the Persian Gulf for a long time now. The president is aware that it is one of the issues that can gravely destabilize the whole political situation," the press spokesman for President Lech Walesa, Andrzej Drzycimski told journalists today and added that, therefore, all actions taken up by [the] president are consulted with representative bodies and the government.

Drzycimski said that Poland did not plan to take military action in the Gulf.

Asked about the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Poland and the transit of Soviet units stationed in the former East Germany, Drzycimski said that the negotiations were under way but were difficult for Poland as the Soviet side assumed a more rigid attitude to the issue.

The spokesman recalled that 59 Soviet divisions were deployed along Poland's eastern and western borders while Poland had only 13. The transit of Soviet troops through Poland must be viewed also in political categories. This concerns a great number of military materials and forces which in case of unrest in the USSR might slip from control. Hence, Poland insists that the operation take place as soon as possible and proceed continuously. No sovereign state can agree to the transit of unmarked and accidental military transports through its territory.

Drzycimski denied allegations that Lech Walesa was preparing a letter to Mikhail Gorbachev.

Skubiszewski Interviewed on Arrival From UK

AU2201132791 Warsaw REZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 15 Jan 91 pp 1,7

[Jadwiga Butejkis report: "Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski: Our Policy Is Not Changing"]

[Text] Yesterday afternoon our foreign minister held an improvised news conference at Okecie Airport on his return from his official visit to Great Britain.

Asked for the results of his visit to Great Britain, he said: I think very highly of the talks with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. We discussed various European and world problems in connection with the conflict in the Persian Gulf. We discussed at length on the situation in the Soviet Union and neighboring regions. We discussed European security and NATO's position. I do not think NATO can remain indifferent to the security of our region.

We also discussed various matters concerning the agreement on Poland's associate membership of the EC. Poland enjoys the UK's complete support in many important matters connected with negotiations in this sphere, e.g. financial settlements, travel, and trade links between Poland and the "12." I also held talks on this subject at the House of Lords. Finally I met Mr. Kaufmann, the shadow foreign secretary. I also explained the principles of Polish foreign policy to representatives of British political life.

Asked about Lithuania, Minister Skubiszewski said: I do not think this should have happened. The conflict between Moscow and Vilnius should be resolved peacefully, especially because since March last year there has been a lot of time to discuss all thorny issues.

I do not think the presence of Soviet forces in Lithuania encourages the stability that is needed in this European region. One should shun the use of force. I think this was a faulty step to take, because it will not bear any fruit in the long run.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] What will be Poland's foreign policy in the face of the latest events in Lithuania?

[Skubiszewski] Our policy will not change. We support Lithuanian aspirations to independence and believe that all the problems connected with this should be solved by means of negotiations between Vilnius and Moscow. We are providing Lithuania with humanitarian help and support. We have had considerable cooperation with Lithuania, but Lithuania made it difficult by failing to control its border, something it is still not doing. Poland is not in a position to change that. Nevertheless we will do everything we can to improve the situation. We helped Lithuania during the economic blockade, and I see no obstacles to resuming this aid.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] If a Lithuanian government-in-exile is established, will the Polish Government be its host?

[Skubiszewski] That question is premature because such a government does not exist yet.

[RZECZPOSPOLITA] Will the Polish Government recognize an independent Lithuanian state, and are you going to meet Foreign Minister Saudargas?

[Skubiszewski] I have already met Minister Saudargas several times, and am bound to meet him again. As far as recognition is concerned, I do not think this issue will crop up for the time being. The government of independent Poland has never recognized the annexation of the Baltic countries in 1940, something that is frequently forgotten. Afterward a certain factual situation came into existence, a situation that exists between all the countries that did not recognize this annexation. A long time went by again and a certain situation appeared which now has to be changed gradually through negotiations.

Right now Lithuania is on the road to independence. It is not an independent state yet, and our experience tells us that the road to independence is very long.

Prime Minister Holds Talks With EC Official

LD2101225891 Warsaw PAP in English 2248 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 21—Polish Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki held talks today with EC official Alexander H. Dijckmeester on the conditions of Poland's joining the EC.

This was the first meeting of the head of the Polish Government with a representative of the European Communities.

At present, talks continue on how to expand Poland's access to West-European markets.

A treaty on Poland's association with the EC will be probably signed in mid-1991. The prime minister said that he planned to appoint a government's plenipotentiary for Poland's integration with the EC.

Bielecki Views Security, Challenges, Opposition

LD2101104991 Warsaw PAP in English 0939 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Krzysztof Bielecki by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] Warsaw, Jan 21—Prime Minister Krzysztof Bielecki gave an interview to ZYCIE WARSZAWY in which he sketched his government's intentions for the nearest future. Excerpts:

On the present state of Poland's security: When it came to the war in the Gulf I called our crisis headquarters to learn that the latter had already took indispensable actions. In the morning this staff had another session which made decisions safeguarding the state and citizens. Army and police organized the protection of important buildings, foreign missions included. Despite the tense situation security is ensured.

On the challenges [the] government is faced with: Of course we do realize that monetary tightness breeds social anxiety and even opposition. The greatest challenge to my government is to live up to social expectations.

It is the task of the government to make for the deepening of the freedom and independence of mass communications media. The government will do its best to pursue an open information policy.

On the government opposition: The outcome of the voting on the composition of the cabinet would indicate that we have no opposition at Parliament. On the whole Poles come out in favour of democracy and market-oriented economy but there are many people at various posts who would like to hold on to the status quo.

Walesa, OKP Discuss Elections, Privatization

LD1701233191 Warsaw PAP in English 2106 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 17—Polish President Lech Walesa met today with the Presidium of the Citizens' Parliamentary Floor Group (OKP) to discuss international problems, the date of parliamentary elections and the situation in work establishment. The meeting considered two possible dates of the elections to the Polish Parliament: either next May or the turn of November. Lech Walesa seemed to favour the latter date.

OKP leader Mieczyslaw Gil pointed to the appearing disappointment on the part of society following too slow a pace of restructuring in the economy.

Walesa called the to-date process of privatization a joke and agreed that everything should be done to give it a boost.

FDP Expresses Views on Sejm Elections

AU2101113891 Warsaw PAP in English 1923 GMT 17 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 17—The situation beyond Poland's eastern border shows that the process of positive chances is still possible there but the scenario is still greatly uncertain. Hence the implications not only for Poland's foreign policy but also for internal transformations: the need to complete the construction of a democratic state and to hold parliamentary elections as soon as possible. To have them in spring is fully feasible, Aleksander Hall told a press conference today.

Hall added that prompt elections could not be replaced by any other ideas, including that of setting up a political council of the president.

In his statement Hall said:

—The Forum of the Democratic Right-Wing (FDP), while preserving its own identity, co-forms the Democratic Union. We shall take part in the elections while rallied around Tadeusz Mazowiecki. The Union should become a political party represented in a new parliament.

—The Forum is of the opinion that a two-house parliament is needed.

—The Forum greeted with satisfaction the declaration of Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki that his government will continue the economic policy of the Mazowiecki cabinet but does not hide its skepticism as to the chances of such a continuation because the pledges made by the president would be difficult to reconcile with the Balcerowicz programme and principles of neo-liberalism.

—The FDP and the Centre Agreement share views and sympathies but are divided in their political options.

—Credit and banking systems should provide financial means for agriculture. A farm tax should be replaced with an income tax which would encourage investments in agriculture.

—The FDP is of the opinion that Polish law should rule out sales of arable land to foreigners. However, the lease of arable land, even its perpetual use, should be allowed.

PPSd Sets Goals, Views Current Situation

LD1901221491 Warsaw PAP in English 1943 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 19—At its meeting here today, the main council of the Social-Democratic Party of Poland (SDRP) [PPSd] assessed current socio-political situation and set up the party's goals for the future. SDRP expressed its support for the talks and negotiations as the proper road to solving the crisis in the Baltic republics and to liberating Kuwait.

The main council spoke in favour of faster work on the draft off a new constitution and giving it to the referendum during parliamentary elections this coming spring. SDRP said it might join the presidential council if its status becomes known.

As the SDRP perceives the rule of centre-right-wing as dangerous for the interests of working people, the party's main council said it would be in the opposition to the current government but would support it if the Polish reason of state is at stake.

State Minister Reveals Presidential Attitude

LD1901204891 Warsaw PAP in English 1616 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 19 - President Lech Walesa spares no efforts so that the government might keep all its powers and the prime minster might not feel that his constitutional powers are limited in any way, Minister of State Jaroslaw Kaczynski, head of the Chancellery of the Presidential Office, said at a press coanference here today.

It is generally known that Lech Walesa had a decisive say in the formation of the government, this ensuing from his powers and from the fact that he was elected democratically. The president is much committed not to make

any impression that the government's powers are restricted. Contacts with the cabinet through a special secretary of state at the presidential office seem to be natural.

Obviously, the president cannot go beyond the Constitution but, nevertheless, he has a duty to influence the policy of the state, Kaczynski stated.

Chancellery on Reorganization of President's Office

LD1901215191 Warsaw PAP in English 1941 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Warsaw, Jan. 19—Appearing at a press conference at the Belweder Palace today, Jaroslaw Kaczynski, minister of state and head of the Chancellery at the President's Office, presented the structure and operation of the latter.

Kaczynski said that compared to former President Jaruzelski's term, the present office has undergone integration, restructuring and expansion of its political department. "The point is to enable the president to influence the performance of the government—within the framework of the Constitution—and other spheres of public life, especially local governments," Kaczynski said.

The chief of the chancellery told the newsmen that it consisted of four secretariats of state handling: international affairs, contacts with the government, parliament and political organizations, for socio-economic affairs and local government affairs. "This is a political body," Kaczynski pointed out.

He also announced that Secretary of State Jerzy Milewski was in charge of everything which remained after the Committee of National Defence, adding that work was under way to transform the committee which was an extra-parliamentary body deciding military matters, formerly chaired by Gen. Jaruzelski.

"The president has certain powers with regard to the government. They stem from his right to chair meetings of the cabinet when he deems it necessary. The Constitution provides for this. From these powers one can infer that the president can address the government to undertake various action," Kaczynski said, adding:

"The president takes great care that the government preserve all its powers and that the prime minister not have the feeling that his constitutional powers are in any way limited. Lech Walesa wants, can and has a right and obligation to influence the policy of the state. Many people even expect him to take very direct interventions. Walesa of course cannot exceed the Constitution. He does however have an obligation to bear impact on state policy," the chief of the president's chancellery stated.

There are over 200 people employed in the president's chancellery. Its budget is proposed to total 223 billion zlotys (22.3 million dollars). The budget of the chancellery itself is equal to that of a relatively small ministry," Kaczysnki said. He also pointed out that the future political council would not be a part of the president's chancellery.

Today's press conference was held under stricter security measures introduced by the government protection bureau. Everyone entering the Belweder was checked for metal objects.

Solidarity Weekly Fulfilled 'Political Mission'

AU1801200391 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 11 Jan 91 p 3

[Unattributed report: "TYGODNIK SOLIDARNOSC Without the Center Accord"]

[Text] The editor in chief of TYGODNIK SOLIDARNOSC, as well as others who have shaped this paper's political countenance, have either already left it and gone to work in the Belweder or government, or will shortly do so. They claim TYGODNIK fulfilled its political mission when Lech Walesa became president.

Jaroslaw Kaczynski has become head of the presidential chancellery. Jacek Maziarski, as under secretary of state, will be responsible for the president's political business. Krzysztof Wyszkowski, rather loosely connected with TYGODNIK, has been an adviser to Prime Minister Jan Krzysztof Bielecki for some time now. It is also said that Maciej Zalewski will soon be government plenipotentiary for local government matters.

The editor in chief of TYGODNIK is appointed by the "Solidarity" National Commission, but it is not known whether the commission will manage to find a successor before or after the "Solidarity" extraordinary congress scheduled for February. The Commission did not have enough time to discuss this at its Wednesday [9 January] meeting.

In Wyszkowski's view, any decisions concerning TYGODNIK's profile and staff will be made after the congress, but he does not think the paper will become more "trade unionist," something that Lech Kaczynski implied when he said on Wednesday's evening news: "It will certainly not be a government organization, and will be more independent."

Maziarski also says TYGODNIK will certainly not be controlled by the Center Accord. "The departing staffers have no influence on who succeeds them, and do not wish to have any influence; that should be left to the union."

"TYGODNIK SOLIDARNOSC has fulfilled its mission," Wyszkowski told us. "This mission was for 'Solidarity' to assume power. Thus, the movement's 1980 objectives have been attained."

Said Maziarski: "The paper's future should depend on the union's current needs. So far, political functions have predominated, hence TYGODNIK's profile. From now on, the Belweder is going to perform these functions."

Foreign Ministry Views 'Repression' in Latvia

AU2101152091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1547 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 21/1/1991—Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs learned which concern of new acts of recourse to force in the Baltic countries, this time in Latvia, which killed and wounded people, shows a statement the ministry released on Monday. The repression of the Baltic peoples' aspirations after democracy and the full exercise of their right to self determination runs counter to the provisions of the Paris Charter on a new Europe, as well as to other CSCE documents, especially those adopted in connection with the human dimension of the all-European process. Falling in the same framework is also the creation of ad-hoc bodies, such as national salvation committees, that assume the right to lead the Baltic republics although they are not a result of free elections or of the will of the peoples of those republics, the statement also points out.

Reiterating Romania's sympathy with and support to the deep-going democratic changes in the Soviet Union, which creates prerequisites for collaboration between countries in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union and, on a broader plane, for all-European cooperation, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania, the statement reads, cannot but express the deepest concern over those tendencies and actions that might undermine the process of building the new Europe whose landmarks were laid at the Paris meeting of CSCE heads of state and government.

The Foreign Ministry of Romania, the statement shows in conclusion, once again expresses the hope, the way it did in its January 14, 1991 statement on the situation in the Baltic, that the central and local Soviet authorities will work most responsibly, in the spirit of the provisions contained in the Helsinki Final Act and in the other CSCE documents, for a settlement of issues by way of dialogue, all while putting an end to the recourse to force.

PSD, PNT-cd Condemn 'Intervention' in Baltics

AU1901140691 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0931 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 19/1/1991—The Romanian Social Democratic Party [PSD] has learned with indignation and deep concern about the brutal way in which the Soviet armed forces are trying to stifle Lithuania's legitimate aspirations after freedom and independence, reads a statement signed by Mr. Sergiu Cunescu, chairman of the Social Democratic Party, sent to the "ROMPRES" news agency for release.

In consideration of the fact that such threats are posed also to our brothers in the Republic of Moldova the Parliament, the government and the president of Romania should take firm stance against the policy of occupation and aggression and urge all government organizations—the UN included—to protect the oppressed peoples in the Soviet empire and support their fight for independence and democracy, the statement also shows.

The Steering Committee of the National Peasant Party [PNT-cd] sent a letter to the "ROMPRES" news agency asking the Romanian Parliament to express disagreement with the Soviet army's intervention in Lithuania and Latvia, asking the USSR and President Mikhail Gorbachev personally to put an end to military actions and withdraw the army from Lithuania and Latvia.

The letter requests the Romanian legislative forum to look into the predictable situation that may emerge in the free and independent Republic of Moldova, a Romanian land with a Romanian people abusively mastered by the USSR, in the wake of the denunciation of the Ribbentrop-Molotov Treaty.

'Escalation' of Hostilities in Gulf Viewed

AU1801175391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1748 GMT 18 Jan 91

["Statement" issued by Foreign Ministry; place and date not given]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/01/1991—Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent the ROMPRES News Agency the following statement:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs learned with deep worry that, in the context of the military operations in the Gulf region, the Iraqi Armed Forces had launched missiles against objectives in Israel. This escalation of military hostilities can but aggravate the situation in that whole area and set even farther the perspectives of peace and of settling those problems.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs reasserts the Romanian Government's conviction that the only way to peace in the Gulf is the observance of the Security Council resolutions on Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the re-establishment of that country's independence and sovereignty.

UDMR Condemns Iraqi Missile Attacks on Israel

AU1901183991 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1748 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 19/1/1991—The Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania [Democratic Association of Hungarians in Romania—UDMR] has condemned Iraq's military aggression on its small neighbour, Kuwait, from the very beginning, shows a statement of the above-mentioned union. Considering that in the last few decades scores of thousands of Jewish fellow countrymen of Hungarian language and culture emigrated to Israel, we are particularly concerned over the danger they are facing. We are beside them, the statement says.

The leadership of the Romania-Israel Cultural Association of friendship, learning with deep anxiety about the unprovoked attack on Israel with missiles, expresses its deep consternation and indignation at such a meaningless and unjustified brutal act.

On behalf of the association members throughout the country, on behalf of all the sincere friends of Israel in Romania, we voice our sympathy with it, wholeheartedly hoping that its primordial vocation of peace and creation will come victor in these difficult moments as well, the association's statement shows.

Antigovernment Demonstration Held in Iasi

AU1901204291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1802 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 19/1/1991—Some 200 persons staged a march in Iasi Saturday afternoon, which was followed by a meeting of solidarity with the workers on strike in Timisoara. The action was initiated by "Agora" society in the locality. The demonstrators chanted slogans against communism, the government, the president and the Parliament of the country, and spoke up for King Mihai's return.

Iasi residents walking in the streets disapproved of their action, demanded them to no longer disturb the city's public order, and urged them to work as that was the only solution to surmount the difficulties the country is encountering.

Transylvanian Army Commander To Defend Leaders

AU1801185591 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1632 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Report on interview with Colonel General Paul Cheler by unidentified reporter; place and date not given]

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 18/01/1991—"Now there are reasons for restlessness in Transylvania" stated Colonel General Paul Cheler with the daily "LIBERTATEA". It must be clear to anyone: I am military and make the state's policy, but as a citizen with a right to vote I also have my options. In my capacity as commander of the Army in Transylvania, he said, I swore in before the people. As long as I am in active duty, the troops that are under me assured me they would observe their oath of allegiance to the country, the people and our ancestors' land".

General Cheler made the above-mentioned statement to explain his orders and measures on the eve of the December 1, 1990 festivities in Alba Iulia for which he has been criticized in the pages of Romanian newspapers and reviews, as the editor of "LIBERTATEA" notes.

Yes, there was a real danger of shooting in Alba Iulia on December 1, said General Cheler while referring to specific actions and events at the time as well as to the data supplied by "the information system" any commander has. Some time ago there was a plan in Tirgu Mures, which was thwarted, that was aiming at "a feud with somebody". In the same context, he mentioned the statement Doru Braia made in Cluj and Timisoara to advocate the need to liquidate at least one million members of the former RCP, the fact that, in Alba Iulia, when President Ion Iliescu was laying the first wreath at Michael the Brave's tomb, Kosuth Radio station in Budapest broadcast that the Army started to shoot at the population on General Cheler's order, as well as that young Hungarians were discovered to have made preparations for a diversion during the military drills performed on Christmas eve.

I want to inform all those who said about me I was a criminal that I wanted to do my duty and defend the dignitaries elected by the people. I should have made the same irrespective of the party which would have won the elections, even if they had been the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania, the National Liberal Party, or the National Peasant Christian Democratic Party, because the Army is obliged to safeguard the dignitaries elected by the people.

Interior Ministry: No Passage of 'Iraqi Agents'

LD1801171891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1619 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 18 (TANJUG)—The Yugoslav Interior Ministry today denied reports on the passing of some 50 Iraqi agents through Yugoslavia on their way to the West.

"Even with intensified international cooperation, the Yugoslav security services did not obtain data supporting these claims," Dragisa Ristivojevic, chief of cabinet in the ministry told TANJUG.

This is the essence of a detailed report on the alleged passing of Iraqi agents through Yugoslavia made by the ministry at the instruction of the State Presidency.

The report was made after a recent demand by the Presidency of the Republic of Slovenia that the federal bodies start an investigation into a report published in the JORDAN TIMES that Saddam Husayn had allegedly sent about 50 Iraqi agents—experts in sabotage—to the West, which they were to reach through Yugoslavia.

Denying the report, Ristivojevic added that Yugoslavia will remain a consistent fighter against international terrorism.

Report of Transit Denied

LD1801152591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1421 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Jan (TANJUG)—The Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs, together with the security services in Yugoslavia and increased international cooperation, has not obtained any information that would confirm assertions that some 50 Iraqi agents have transferred to the West via Yugoslavia. This information, as Dragisa Ristivojevic, head of the office of Federal Secretary for Internal Affairs Petar Gracanin, said in a statement to TANJUG, has been sent to the SFRY Presidency.

This information, compiled at the request of the SFRY presidency on 15 January, was occasioned by the recent demand of the Slovene Presidency that the federal services initiate an enquiry because of allegations in the 'JORDAN TIMES' that "Saddam Husayn has allegedly sent about 50 of his agents, experts in raids and sabotage, to the West, which they were to infiltrate via Yugoslavia."

In the report of the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs, Ristivojevic says, it is stressed that "although Yugoslavia is among the most open countries of the world, with millions of crossings of the state borders, the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs is taking and will continue to take measures toward preventing terrorist acts on its territory, or the use of any part of Yugoslav territory for such activities against third countries."

Yugoslavia has always been and will remain, Ristivojevic further cites the gist of the report of the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs to the SFRY Presidency, a consistent opponent of international terrorism, because it has itself often been a victim of it. The Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs, in cooperation with the security services in the Federation, republics, and provinces, is working continuously at detecting, monitoring, and thwarting the activity of terrorist organizations and individuals.

In addition, broad cooperation has been developed with the security services of a number of European and non-European countries, particularly aimed at eradicating international terrorism. Significant results have been achieved in this, Ristivojevic concludes.

Foreign Secretariat Concerned by Iraqi Attack

LD1801142191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1124 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 18 (TANJUG)—Deep concern is voiced in the Yugoslav Foreign Secretariat today over the Iraqi attack on Israel last night.

The Yugoslav foreign secretariat, as TANJUG has learned, views the Iraqi missile attack on Israel as an extremely dangerous escalation of the Gulf war. It, therefore, expects Israel to show wisdom and restraint so that the Gulf war would remain limited to its essential goal—the liberation of Kuwait and restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty, as it is set out in Yugoslav diplomatic circles today.

Ministry Adopts Anti-Terrorism Measures

LD1801145191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1105 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Jan (TANJUG)—Since the exacerbation of the crisis in the Gulf, and particularly since the outbreak of war, internal affairs services have reached full mobilization for the protection of the security of the country and of foreign diplomatic and other missions in Yugoslavia that would be potential targets of terrorist actions, the Federal Executive Council [FEC] Secretariat for Information states.

It is specified that "maximum attention is being devoted to detecting the arrival and transit to Yugoslavia of members of terrorist organizations. To this end security measures at border crossings have been strengthened. As we know, similar measures have been taken by the services of Greece, Hungary, Romania, Italy, and Austria as well. At the same time, security has been increased for officials and buildings of all warring sides, and preventative measures have been taken for the protection of vital buildings and communications in the country. So far, however, no interesting phenomena or incidents from the security point of view have been recorded in our country", the FEC Secretariat for Information reports.

Reportage on Arms Surrender Deadline

Press Views Deadline

LD2101161191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1244 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, January 21 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav newspapers on Monday differ in their interpretations of the motives underlying the Yugoslav State Presidency's decision to extend the deadline for turning in weapons unlawfully possessed by civilians and paramilitary units. However, they all see the decision by the highest federal state body as closely connected with negotiations of the federal units on future organization of the country.

The deadline was unexpectedly extended for 48 hours before its expiry at midnight on Saturday. Bilateral talks between the six Yugoslav republics on the future of the country are underway.

The Sarajevo daily OSLOBODJENJE writes optimistically that a Yugoslav integration is possible. This has been proved, the paper says, by several talks held so far between representatives of the republican leaderships.

In the assessment of the Zagreb daily VJESNIK, extending the deadline for turning in the weapons leads to a relaxation of tension in the country.

Rejecting the possibility of military intervention, VJESNIK believes that "intimidation of the republics," primarily Croatia and Slovenia, is intended above all to weaken their starting positions in negotiations.

The Ljubljana daily DELO interprets the extension of the deadline for turning in the weapons as a proof that the "army in fact does not know what to do," because the Presidency's order has remained without effect during the past ten days.

This paper, too, sees the extension of the deadline as connected with next week's political developments in the country. Besides the inter-republican negotiations, DELO mentions a session of the Assembly of Slovenia which is to enact a number of bills, thus practically initiating the process of a rapid secession of this Yugoslav republic.

According to the daily, extending the deadline for turning in the weapons could be intended to bring additional pressure to bear upon the Slovenian deputies to change their mind at the eleventh hour.

DELO, too, considers a military coup an improbable proposition.

Army Authorized To Act

LD2001124991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1141 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Text] Zagreb, Jan 20 (TANJUG)—Zagreb daily VJESNIK writes today that the army has been authorized to "act against legal organs" by the Yugoslav State Presidency's recent order on disbanding and disarming of paramilitary units.

VJESNIK quotes the Croatian HINA agency as commenting that the state presidency's order is aimed against the "legal police forces and the democratically elected authorities in Croatia and Slovenia."

HINA's comment says that the "democratic authorities in Croatia have reinforced the police forces to protect the democratic achievements and democratic order."

The army's possible actions in Croatia and Slovenia, the commentary says, would pose "a threat to peace in this section of Yugolavia."

According to a statement made last night by Yugoslav Vice President and Yugoslav State Presidency member from Croatia Stipe Mesic, Croatia maintains its regular and reserve police and special detachments. All of them are armed, but the Yugoslav State Presidency's order cannot pertain to them, Mesic stated.

The Yugoslav State Presidency does not specify in its order whether it relates also to police reservists and special units in Croatia and Slovenia.

Late last light it was announced that the deadline for handing over arms was extended by 48 hours to run out Monday night. The deadline was prolonged, as was said, at Croatia's request.

Mesic Urges Surrender of Arms

LD1901211391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1535 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Zagreb, 19 Jan (TANJUG)—Stipe Mesic, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, today called on everyone in illegal possession of arms to return them. Mesic spoke at today's electoral assembly of the town organization of the Croatian Democratic Community in the Congress Hall of the Zagreb Grand Fair.

As reported by Croatian radio, Mesic also spoke about the order concerning the return of arms. He stressed that everyone who has obtained them illegally should return them. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Croatia, Mesic said, has its own regular reserve formation and special units. All of these are armed. This is a legal bearing of arms, however, so the decree of the Presidency does not relate to this. We send word to those who do not recognize the present Croatia, Mesic said, that they can all have the same rights as Croats, but no one can be more equal. No army can make a military putsch.

Speaking about the future historic agreement on Yugoslavia, Stipe Mesic stressed that he will soon be sitting around a common table, but on an equal basis.

Presidency Extends Deadline

LD1901202791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2012 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, 19 Jan (TANJUG)—The Information Department of the SFRY Presidency has been authorized to announce that the SFRY Presidency, at the request of the government of the Republic of Croatia, has given its approval that the deadline for the disarming and disbanding of illegal armed formations, which was specified in the decree of the SFRY Presidency of 9 January this year, be extended by 48 hours, until 0000 on 22 January 1991 (2300 GMT 21 January).

Markovic Briefs Journalists on Economic Talks

LD1901100891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2309 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Skopje, 18 Jan (TANJUG)—Prospects exist for the achievement of an agreement on minimum conditions for the functioning of the Federation. Any other alternative leads to a situation, the consequences of which none of us want, Ante Markovic, president of the FEC, said this evening in talks with journalists. Markovic has been in Skopje in the framework of his tour, during which he has been negotiating, with the leaderships of the republics, a platform on minimum conditions for the functioning of the country.

Ante Markovic indicated that his optimism is also supported by recent phemonena, especially in the monetary sphere. He stressed that "incursions in the monetary sphere have been located" and that not only control over but repayment of funds is now being implemented. "The incursions have to a significant degree already been reversed," he said, and added that a decision has been adopted for a return to the initial situation by the end of January at the latest. It was also agreed to begin the clearing of obligations arising out of the federal budget and toward it. After this the differences arising out of the clearance would be paid.

The FEC president stressed that the daily revenue of the federal budget is improving. Thus, since the middle of January, the revenue of the Federation has been 1.4 billion dinars, while in the last few days the daily inflow into the federal treasury amounts to about 300 million dinars. This is still significantly less than the needs of the budget for 1991—in other words, to make up for lost ground last year. But this is much more than was the case at the end of last year.

Ante Markovic stressed that the FEC is preparing a law on the issuing of federal bonds designed to recover most of the funds that cannot be paid in the short term. The law, which should be adopted in accordance with urgent procedures, should contribute to the Federation—in other words, the federal budget—not being the cause of the insufficient liquidity of the economy in the country.

The information, provided to the representatives of the five republics that he has been visiting over the past few days (the talks in Serbia are on Monday) supported most of the FEC proposals. President Ante Markovic also said that in the second round of the "Yugoslav summit" participants would have a sufficient basis for agreement. This agreement on minimum conditions for the functioning of Yugoslavia must be adopted, as anything else would lead to anarchy and chaos in society.

All the republics, Markovic stressed, supported the government's macroeconomic policy, the basis of which is the maintenance of the dinar's convertibility. An agreement on this and on the other conditions for the conditional Yugoslav minimum for survival should facilitate the further development of the reforms, but also time for fresh agreements on the future of Yugoslavia.

Move To Strengthen Federation Monetary Powers

LD1801211891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1723 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 18 (TANJUG) - The Yugoslav Government of Prime Minister Ante Markovic today proposed new leval measures aimed at strengthening the monetary powers of the federation.

The document was submitted to the federal parliament with the request for approval in an emergency procedure.

The government proposed that payment operations of the National Bank of Yugoslavia and the national banks of the country's six republics and two provinces, which have been made through nine separate accounts so far, now go through a single account with the central bank

The government's attempt to ensure tighter control over money in circulation was triggered by a financial scandal made public two weeks ago, when the country's biggest republic of Serbia illegally took a loan in new money to the equivalent of 1.5 billion dollars.

The National Bank of Yugoslavia had no prior knowledge of what was described as an attempt at undermining the country's monetary system.

The Serbian Government responded to the accusations by claiming that other republics had also taken illegal credits from the central bank.

Mesic Demands Change of Army Chief of Staff

AU1801171491 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 13 Jan 91 p 1

[Interview with Stipe Mesic, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, by Vojo Lukic; date and place not given: "I Am Going To Demand That Adzic Be Replaced"—first paragraph is VJESNIK introduction]

[Text] We talked with Stipe Mesic, vice president of the SFRY Presidency, at the end of last week regarding the chances for the survival and character of the future community of the Yugoslav peoples and nationalities .

[Lukic] You walked out of the regular session of the SFRY Presidency on Wednesday [9 January].

[Mesic] Yes, some military questions were discussed. At one moment, violent polemics broke out between me and the chief of the General Staff, Colonel General Blagoje Adzic. He spoke very unfairly, to put it mildly, about the political situation in Croatia and supported his claims with information that was, in my opinion, insufficiently checked, not to use a more serious expression. I have asked to be given shorthand notes of all statements made at that session and when I study them in detail, I think I will demand that General Adzic be relieved as chief of General Staff of the Yugoslav People's Army. After rather unpleasant polemics with him, I walked out of the session and left for Zagreb.

[Lukic] You were already in Belgrade again by Thursday [10 January].

[Mesic] On Wednesday evening I attended the session of the Council for National Defense and Protection of the Constitutional Order of the Republic of Croatia, of which I am a member. The session was chaired by Dr. Franjo Tudjman, president of the Republic of Croatia. On Thursday, I was again in Belgrade where the State Presidency and republican leaderships discussed the new historic agreement.

[Lukic] Reports have it that the atmosphere at the meeting was good.

[Mesic] Everybody voiced their opinions and stands about the future of Yugoslavia freely and with full tolerance and respect, which is a significant quality. Discussed were the confederate model of the Yugoslav community, a modern federation, etc. After the session, during the luncheon which was held in the Palace of the Federation, also in a relaxed atmosphere, many problems were discussed that are burdening relations among the republics of the Yugoslav community. Everybody unanimously concluded that if more open talks such as these had been held in the past, all these political and economic problems would have certainly not broken out in Yugoslavia. At least the situation would not be so drastic and would not hang like a Damoclean sword above our heads today.

[Lukic] Observers assess that Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic was more moderate at the session, although he did maintain the theses that the Serbian people need a federation.

[Mesic] Milosevic did not speak much, he advocated the concept of a modern federation. Within the coming 10 days, the delegations of Croatia and Serbia will meet in Belgrade and will hold direct talks that will inform each other about stands and thoughts about the future of the Yugoslav community.

[Lukic] One can frequently read, particularly in some Belgrade newspapers, that a large number of Albanians who have for various reasons been dismissed from or left their jobs in Kosovo are working in the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs.

[Mesic] I assert most energetically that only one, and literally one, Albanian is working in the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs and he is a translator in the cases of ethnic Albanian drug smugglers being caught. Unfortunately, the Albanian narco-mafia is more and more active in Croatia. This is, however, a different topic although it should also be discussed because drugs are becoming an increasingly serious problem in Croatia as well.

[Lukic] Are you still optimistic, considering the general crisis?

[Mesic] The difficulties encountered by all of us living in the Yugoslav community are really not small. I firmly believe that we are capable of solving all problems, provided that the mutual talks show maximum tolerance and respect for partners. No problem can be solved through pressures, force, and blackmail, and I think that this is clear to everybody. The Croatian leadership will also make a maximum effort in order to have this comprehensive crisis in Yugoslavia solved to the benefit and welfare of all of us and to nobody's detriment. Croatian President Dr. Franjo Tudjman presented Croatian stands at the Thursday session of the SFRY Presidency. There are three basic directions that these indispensable changes in the relations in the country must follow: the direction toward a market economy and parliamentary democracy on the entire territory of the present Yugoslavia, the direction toward transforming into a regional alliance of sovereign states, and the direction toward joining the European Community of equal democratic peoples and states.

Islamic Assembly Holds Constituent Session

LD1601215591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1530 GMT 16 Jan 91

[Text] Sarajevo, 16 Jan (TANJUG)—Mustafa Plicanic from Zagreb has been elected president of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic community in Yugoslavia, Asim Cviko from Priboj, and Mesud Hafizovic from Sarajevo were elected vice presidents.

This was announced today after the constituent session of the Supreme Assembly, the top representative body of the Islamic Community in Yugoslavia. In the light of the Islamic Community's new constitution, the Supreme Assembly has 46 members elected in five assembly areas.

Although this was a constituent session of the Supreme Assembly, following the report by the acting Reis-ul-Ulema, Hadzi Jakub Effendi Selimoski, and the

acceptance addressed by Mustafa Plicanic, the newly elected Supreme Assembly president, a wide-ranging discussion was opened during the Supreme Assembly session on a variety of issues, especially on the situation in Kosovo, says a statement issued to the public.

The adoption of a resolution on Kosovo was the result of this discussion, and some other decisions were adopted too, for instance the need for every Islamic Community district to work out an operative program, for continued aid to Kosovo, to support the proposal to set up a Mufti living for Sandzak and also to build a Muslim religious school in Novi Pazar, and to set up a special body comprising highly qualified people to work out a long-term program for the development of the Islamic Community, and others.

The Supreme Assembly also endorsed the resolution adopted by Muslim intellectuals and changed Article 29 of the constitution of the Islamic Community concerning the name of the Assembly in Pristina with the result that in future this Assembly will be known as the Assembly of the Islamic Community for Kosovo, Serbia and Vojvodina. The standing orders of the Supreme Assembly have been changed to with the result that in future all senior officials will be elected by secret vote from among several candidates. It was also decided to speed up the procedure for the election of Reis-ul-Ulema and the date for the meeting of the electoral body has been fixed, says the statement.

Markovic, Serbian Leaders Air Political Problems

LD2101232391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2130 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, 21 Jan (TANJUG)—Federal Executive Council [FEC] President Ante Markovic and President of the Serbian Executive Council Stanko Radmilovic, with their aides, had talks in Belgrade this evening. Serbian Prime Minister-Designate Dragutin Zelenovic took part in the talks, which were held within the framework of the implementation of the conclusions of the SFRY Presidency session held on 10 January, which discussed the country's political future.

The talks concentrated on the FEC 11-point proposal whose implementation is, according to the FEC, a necessary prerequisite for the country's functioning until an agreement on its future order is reached between all federal units through democratic dialogues. Although both sides agreed on the necessity of reaching an agreement on preconditions for finding a way out of the current impasse, differences were expressed about the scope, i.e. the adequacy of the solutions offered.

Representatives of the Serbian Executive Council disagreed with the proposal that only "minimum" federal functions be financed, but insisted that the federal functions as laid down by the constitution and law should be implemented. It was agreed that the Serbian Executive Council, like other republican governments, will submit its solutions, remarks and suggestions in writing especially regarding the inadequately defined status of agriculture and the fund for the development of undeveloped republics and the province of Kosovo and Metohija. Today's talks also considered other topical issues and problems.

Campaign To Disarm Serbian Groups Begins

LD1801150191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1117 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, 18 Jan (TANJUG)—The action of taking over weapons and ammunition from people who do not have a permit to hold arms, is under way in Serbia.

The Serbian Secretariat for National Defense told TANJUG that, at the insistance of commands of appropriate JNA [Yugoslav National Army] units, National Defense bodies are involved in the consistent implementation of the SFRY Presidency decree issued on 9 January on the return of weapons.

When TANJUG asked whether there are paramilitary units in Serbia, the answer was that such or similar formations have not and do not exist in Serbia.

Reportage on Croatian Reaction to Arms Surrender

Public Begins To Hand Over Weapons

LD1801145891 Belgrade TANJUG in English 0912 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Zagreb, Jan 18 (TANJUG)—The Interior Ministry of the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia announced today that people began to turn in their illegally possessed arms.

The Presidency of Yugoslavia, which acts as the supreme commander of the Armed Forces, had ordered that all para-military units in the country be disarmed and disbanded in ten days. The deadlines runs out tomorrow.

An announcement today by the Croatian Interior Ministry said that six sub-machineguns, 112 rifles, 60 pistols and an appreciable amount of ammunition have been made over.

The ministry also said that the drive of turning over or seizing arms would continue and special account would be taken for military armament to be returned from civilians.

The ministry announcement does not mention the disbanding of para-military units which had otherwise also been ordered by the Yugoslav state presidency.

Rally Calls For 'Defense of Croatia'

LD2101234191 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2252 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Osijek, Jan 21 (TANJUG)—Leaders of the opposition Croatian Democratic Party (CDP) today accused the Yugoslav People's Army of threatening the sovereignty of the Republic of Croatia and announced that they would "defend it, if necessary, with weapons."

Addressing a protest rally "for the defence of Croatia" in Osijek, attended by several thousand people, CDP president Marko Veselica said that "Yugoslavia in any form whatsoever is out of the question for the Croatian people—both as a confederation, and even less as a federation. Any Yugoslavia is a dungeon for the Croatian people, and the Yugoslav concept is greater Serbian," Veselica said.

Participants in the rally, held only several hours before the expiry of the deadline for the carrying out of the Yugoslav State Presidency's order on the disarming of all para-military units in the country, chanted slogans calling to war to protect their own nation.

The Yugoslav Presidency's order is seen in Slovenia and Croatia, where independent territorial defence and special police units have been set up, as an "attempt to intimidate" before the forthcoming negotiations between the republics on the future order in Yugoslavia.

The authorities in Slovenia and Croatia are urging full independence, which also implies the setting up of independent armed forces.

Complaints About 'Propaganda War'

LD2101193191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1727 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Zagreb 21 January (TANJUG)—"The psychological propaganda war, that has been conducted against Croatia over the last few days in the wake of the decree on turning in the arms of illegally-armed formations, was intensified today with a series of provocative measures and activities noticed in army units through the territory of the Republic of Croatia." This is stressed this evening in a commentary by the Croatian news agency, HINA, carried by Croatian radio.

"In authoritative circles it is assessed that this wide-ranging activity is designed to put fear into ordinary people and also into the officer corps in the army units themselves, and even that its intention is to provoke an incident that could create general uncertainty and fear, which would then justify military intervention, and what would follow is not difficult to imagine.

"Tension mounted after the Yugoslav Presidency announced that, at the request of the Republic of Croatia government, the deadline for turning in arms has been extended by 48 hours, although the Republic of Croatia government made no such request. The department of information statement by the Yugoslav Presidency, formulated in this way has, among other things, the purpose of stressing that Croatia is not in a position to organize the collection of arms from illegally-armed formations. In other words, this means that someone else should collect them, and that someone else could only be the Yugoslav People's Army," concluded the HINA commentary.

Tudjman on Confronting Army

LD2101190791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1535 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Excerpt] Sarajevo, 21 Jan (TANJUG)—[Passage omitted] Asked at a news conference about today's talks between the delegations of Bosnia-Hercegovina and Croatia, Dr. Franjo Tudjman said that the Croatian side had presented its by now familiar views that, according to him, coincided with those of the Bosnia-Hercegovina delegation as far as the need for democratic transformation was concerned. Of course, there are many differences between us and we have already agreed on talks over these issues, Tudjman added.

During his brief meeting with journalists, Dr. Tudjman was asked about the disarming of paramilitary formations. Asked what would happen if the Yugoslav People's Army decides to intervene, Dr. Tudjman said that both the Croat militia and the Croat people will confront it.

Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Bosnia-Hercegovina Presidency, told journalists that in the view of his republic the first task is to define the notion of a paramilitary unit and that all military actions should be halted while negotiatons are in progress. He also stressed that Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina agree on two vital points: on the sovereignty of Bosnia-Hercegovina and on Yugoslav integration. As far as the latter point is concerned, however, our approaches differ, Izetbegovic said.

He went on to say that there are also differences in the attitude to the Yugoslav People's Army. Bosnia-Hercegovina sees the need for some form of common army that would be de-politicized and rationalized and would have a well-balanced cadre structure. Croatia's stand, however, is different. Alija Izetbegovic, however, failed to explain what Croatia's stand was.

We in Bosnia-Hercegovina are in favor of a single currency and a single issuing bank, Alija Izetbegovic stressed. Croatia, however, has not made its views known on this point, Izetbregovic said. Dr. Tudjman responded to this by saying: "Croatia is in favor of economic independence.

Both presidents agreed that today's talks were open. [passage omitted]

Tudjman Against Army Intervention

LD2101154791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1459 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Sarajevo, 21 Jan (TANJUG)—Army intervention in Croatia will have catastrophic consequences, Croatian President Dr. Franjo Tudjman stated at a news conference in Sarajevo today following talks between delegations from Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina.

Dr. Tudjman stressed that today's discussion between SFRY Presidency President Borisav Jovic and SFRY Presidency member Stipe Mesic shows that there is a difference in interpretations of what paramilitary formations are. The Army maintains that our police should be disarmed, Dr. Tudjman added. We support the idea of disarming illegaly armed individuals, however, but not the Croatian police, which obtained weapons in accordance with legal regulations and with the constitution.

Dr. Tudjman also stressed that the talks in Sarajevo were shortened because of the disarmament situation, the deadline of which is at midnight tonight.

Tudjman for Separate Armed Forces

LD2101180691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1653 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Summary] Sarajevo, 21 Jan (TANJUG)—Delegations of Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina, headed by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman and Bosnia-Hercegovina President Alija Izetbegovic, met in Sarajevo today within the framework of interrepublican talks about the future of Yugoslavia. SFRY Presidency Vice President Stipe Mesic and an SFRY Presidency member from Bosnia-Hercegovina, Bogic Bogicevic, attended the talks. In the course of the talks, the Croatian delegation expressed the following view:

"Regarding the armed forces, Croatia is of the view that each member of a confederation must have its own armed forces, which is one of the requirements for it to be a sovereign state. Croatia, however, does not preclude the possibility of each member of the confederation taking part in joint armed forces with its contingent or in some other acceptable manner."

Additional Weapons Surrendered

LD2101174691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1616 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Zagreb, 21 January (TANJUG)—Large quantities of weapons and ammunition have been turned in to police administrative offices in the Republic of Croatia before and after the coming into force of the SFRY presidency's decree, which the public has been informed about. The republic's Ministry of Internal Affairs issued a statement this afternoon saying that in the past two days—within the framework of the extended deadline specified by the SFRY Presidency—citizens have turned in or have had confiscated additional weapons.

Thus, on 20 and 21 January, 58 rifles, 39 pistols, and 732 items of ammunition were handed in by or confiscated from citizens at police administrative offices of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Zadar, Kutina, Zabok, Varazdin, Gospic, Sibenik, Vinkovci, and Karlovac.

Some of the weapons turned in or confiscated, which do not belong to the police, have been handed over by the police administration to competent units of the Yugoslav People's Army. The process of handing in weapons is on-going, because of difficulties in establishing the ownership of some of the weapons turned in or confiscated, the statement concludes.

Defense Council Asks for Calm

LD2101230191 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2200 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] At its fifth session held on 21 January, chaired by Croatian President Dr. Franjo Tudjman, the Council for National Defense and the Protection of the Constitutional Order analyzed the political, security, and psychological situation in Croatia in connection with expiry of the deadline that the SFRY presidency set for the disarmament of so-called illegal paramilitary formations in Yugoslavia.

The council maintains that Croatian citizens have responded with distrust, opposition, and very often with extreme indignation to the SFRY Presidency's order, considering it an attempt at creation of military pressure on all forces supporting a democratic and peaceful resolution of the constitutional and state crisis in Yugoslavia.

In spite of such a situation, Croatian government bodies and ordinary people have agreed, with an extreme degree of patience and tolerance, to cooperate with internal affairs bodies in implementing the order. At the same time, the order has had an effect on strengthening the resolve of all democratic and peace-loving forces in Croatia, Slovenia, and Yugoslavia to defend their own freedom and democracy. The National Defense Council and the Croatian president himself are calling on all citizens of Croatia to remain peaceful and dignified and not to allow themselves to be taken in by provocations coming from any side, be it from the side of hegemonistic and unitaristic forces, conservative and communist forces, or from the side of extreme party elements operating within Croatia.

The public peace and order bodies and the Croatian Government and leadership are ready to act further in the direction of searching for democratic ways out of all conflicts in Croatia and Yugoslavia. At the same time they express their readiness to oppose any aggression that would threaten the peace, integrity, and sovereignty of Croatia and the peaceful life of its citizens.

Although some Croatian citizens are feeling anxious about the new situation and the rumors, movements of military units, and unreasonable actions on the part of

some Croatian party politicians, we are calling on all Croatian citizens to remain peaceful and to follow only those instructions issued by republican government bodies. These government bodies will, depending on developments, inform the public truthfully and issue orders on the need and form of the defense of freedom and democracy for the citizens and Republic of Croatia.

Arms Recovery Status

LD1901200191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1744 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Zagreb, 19 January (TANJUG)—The Ministry of Internal Affairs [MUP] of the Republic of Croatia this evening released the latest information on efforts to recover or confiscate arms in the republic.

The statement says: "According to complete data processed in the MUP on 19 January 1991 for the area of the Republic of Croatia, during the action for the recovery or confiscation of arms, and in connection with the call by the MUP to citizens to return the arms for which a legal basis for their legalization (military and other) does not exist, until the coming into force of the SFRY presidency's decree on the return of arms, 33 rifles, six machine guns, 17 pistols and 1,621 pieces of ammunition have been handed in to police administrative offices.

After the coming into force of the decree, an additional 228 rifles, 25 automatic rifles, 14 machine guns, 59 pistols, 11 hand grenades, and 3,348 pieces of ammunition were returned to police administrative offices or confiscated from citizens.

Most of the weapons were returned over the past few days. All these weapons were returned to police administrative offices in Karlovac, Vinkovci, Slavonski Brod, Bjelovar, Osijek, Rijeka, Sisak, Sibenik, Zadar, Zagreb, Gospic and Kutina.

The MUP, in keeping with its legally competent authority, will continue to confiscate arms from citizens for which a legal basis for their legalization does not exist.

The ministry is also using the opportunity to again call on all citizens to continue to return illegally possessed weapons, it says at the end of the statement of the MUP of the Republic of Croatia.

Croatia Says Reservists Need Not Obey Draft

LD2101214491 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Statement by Croatian Defense Ministry in Zagreb on 21 January —read by announcer]

[Text] The Croatian Defense Ministry this evening sent a statement to all departments for intermunicipal defense affairs, municipal secretariats for national defense, and the city of Zagreb defense secretariat. The statement says:

On the basis of our knowledge that some military units of the Yugoslav People's Army, contrary to the law on military service, are drafting reserve forces to join military exercises and education, avoiding official and competent bodies and contrary to the legally established deadline for reporting to their units, we are informing you that they have no pretext whatsoever for these moves.

To prevent violation of the law and anarchy in the draft system, we are informing you that reservists are not obliged to obey the draft unless these are sent by municipal secretariats for national defense and their courier services, the statement by the Croatian Defense Ministry stresses.

Tudjman, Izetbegovic on 'Paramilitary' Groups

AU2101220391 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2100 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] The inviolability and constancy of external and internal borders must be preserved in the future setup of the country. It is necessary to respect the legitimacy of interests, equality, and the territorial integrity of all republics. This was stressed in a statement issued today after the talks between the delegations of Bosnia-Hercegovina and Croatia in Sarajevo.

The two sides supported the view that the minimal political consensus on finding a way for cohabitation on the Yugoslav territory would require a mutual respect of the right to sovereignty and thus the right to self-determination, including secession.

If the army intervened in Croatia, this would have catastrophic consequences. This was said by Franjo Tudjman, president of the Republic of Croatia, at a news conference in Sarajevo after the talks between the two republics' delegations.

Franjo Tudjman stressed that, as he said, during today's talks between Borisav Jovic, president of the SFRY Presidency, and Stipe Mesic, member of the SFRY Presidency, there were again differences in interpreting what constituted paramilitary formations. The army holds the view that our militia should also be disarmed [words indistinct] but we want all illegally armed individuals to be disarmed and not the Croatian militia, which obtained arms by legal regulations and in accordance with the constitution.

Tudjman also said that the talks in Sarajevo had been cut short because of the new situation concerning the disarmament. The deadline for disarmament expires at midnight. Answering the question on what would happen if the Army intervened, Tudjman said that both the Croatian people and militia would confront it.

Alija Izetbegovic, president of the Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, told journalists that the stand of his republic is that it is necessary to clarify what paramilitary formations are, and that all military actions should be halted while such interrepublican negotiations were conducted. He also stressed that Croatia and Bosnia-Hercegovina agreed on two major issues: the sovereignty of Bosnia-Hercegovina, and Yugoslav integration.

Regarding this second issue, the approaches are different, Izetbegovic said. At the same time he stressed that the two sides held different views on the Yugoslav People's Army. Bosnia- Hercegovina holds the view that there is a need for some form of a joint army that would be depoliticized, rationalized, and balanced in terms of cadre.

Croatia, however, holds different views, which Izetbegovic did not explain.

Mesic Says 'Croatia Opted for Self-Defense'

LD2001060391 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2323 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Zagreb, January 19 (TANJUG)—Stipe Mesic said in Zagreb today "Croatia opted for self defence and armed itself".

The state Presidency member from Croatia told a meeting of the republic's ruling Croatian Democratic Union that Croatia had asked for arms from "domestic sources" but hadn't gotten them. "That is why", he added, "it turned to its retailers and armed the police".

Of the state Presidency order on disbanding and disarming paramilitary formations, Mesic said it did not include internal affairs organs, ie the police and special units.

He added that "the Croatian flag would come to Knin". The town of Knin and surrounding communities are populated mainly by Serbs and are in conflict with republican authorities.

Mesic said Yugoslavia was, despite everything, entering into "a more peaceful period" and underscored the importance of talks on the country's future order.

2,000 Protest Outside Army Building in Knin

AU1901154991 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Danko Peric report from Knin]

[Text] We are continuing the program with a report that we received a short time ago that says numerous citizens are gathering outside the building of the Knin corps of the Yugoslav People's Army. At a news conference, Academician Jovan Raskovic predicted that the process of detaining Serbs by political administration in Croatia would continue. Danko Peric has the details:

[Peric] Almost 2,000 people are at this moment in front of the building of the command corps of the Yugoslav People's Army. They began to gather at about 1300 [1200 GMT] when several dozen inhabitants of the village of Cetina, Civljane, and Vrlika in the neighboring Sinj commune arrived in Knin. Dissatisfaction around Cetina began after the detention of the veterinarian Milos Babic, employed in the veterinary clinic in (?Vrlika).

The people are not shouting slogans. The entrance to the command of the Knin corps is well protected, mainly by Knin militiamen and soldiers. They are no greater in number than usual.

Dr. Milan Babic, president of the Knin Communal Assembly and of the Executive Committee of the Serbian Autonomous Region of the Krajina, entered the corps' building a minute or two ago.

Academician Jovan Raskovic, president of the Serbian Democratic Party, spoke at a news conference this afternoon and said that the Croatian state cannot conduct a war against the Serbian people because the Yugoslav People's Army would react to this. [passage indistinct]

Illegal Arms 'Mostly' Returned

AU2101151491 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Zoran Trajic report]

[Text] The extended deadline for obeying the order of the SFRY Presidency expires, as known, at midnight. The citizens of Knin and other Serb populated communes in Croatia have mostly returned the illegal arms that they took from the reserve militia force. Zoran Trajic has a report on the current situation in Knin:

[Trajic] The situation in the town is calm. Nothing special is happening. The illegally taken arms have almost all been returned. The Knin authorities are waiting while the people are expectant, but nobody seems to know exactly for what.

A poll carried out here shows that the citizens favor peace and inter-ethnic cooperation. The prerequisite for this might be the general disarmament of the illegally armed. Interpreting the extension of the deadline for carrying out the order of the SFRY Presidency, made at the request of Croatia, the citizens of Knin are assuming that there is a good reason for this, and think that the Croatian authorities could make the necessary goodwill gesture.

A report that presidents Tudjman and Milosevic could meet on 25 December is also expected. Citizens polled also think that the meeting could, and should have taken place earlier.

Reportage on Arms Surrender in Kosovo

Albanians Disregard Order

AU2001162291 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0900 GMT 20 Jan 91

[Milivoje Mihajlovic report, from the "Sunday at 10" program]

[Text] We now have a report from Kosovo about arms and something else. The latest events and statements made by the leaders of the Albanian separatist movement do not promise better conditions for solving the Kosovo problem. Zekerijah Cana, secretary of the Pristina Committee for the Protection of Human Rights, stated that young ethnic Albanians will no longer do their military service in the Yugoslav People's Army. The reason for this, he said, is a large number of suicides committed by young Albanians in the Armed Forces. He also spoke about ethnic Albanians deserting the Army and leaving the country. What is the real picture of the current situation concerning the allegations made by Zekerijah Cana? Milivoje Mihajlovic reports from Pristina:

[Mihajlovic] Buses full of people are almost daily leaving Kacanik, Podujevo, Glogovac, Srbica, Djakovica, Malisevo, and other communes in Kosovo-Metohija for Switzerland, Germany, Belgium, and other countries in the West. We are therefore talking about a coordinated action through which Albanians are supposed to demonstrate that they are prepared to boycott everything Serbian and Yugoslav, including the Yugoslav People's Army.

What is the truth regarding soldiers' suicides? According to official information, 496 soldiers committed suicide in the last eight years. Out of these, 202 were Serbs, 77 Croats, 88 Muslims, 32 Slovenes, 29 Macedonians, 34 Albanians, 16 Montenegrins, and 14 Yugoslavs. These sad statistics deny the claims of the newly emerged Albanian leaders, including Zekerijah Cana, according to which only Albanians are committing suicide in the Yugoslav People's Army.

This only shows that the leaders of Albanian separatists have joined the special war against the Yugoslav People's Army in the same way this was recently done in Slovenia. The fact that an anti-army mood is being incited among Albanians—but only as a segment of the anti-Yugoslav mood—is illustrated by frequent claims that the state leadership wants to militarize Kosovo in various ways and the fact that everything is being compared with the involvement of the Soviet army in Lithuania.

The SFRY Presidency's order concerning the return of arms is a new provocation aimed at inciting a civil war in Kosovo. This order will compel Albanians to defend the honor of their families and this is why we do not accept it, Zekarijah Cana said at a news conference.

Why are the leaders of Albanian separatists not accepting the order of the SFRY Presidency concerning the return of arms? Mainly because Kosovo-Metohija, according to unofficial information, is a great arsenal of illegal and smuggled arms. Separatists are probably counting on another armed uprising by their supporters, and therefore the seizure of arms would significantly reduce their power.

Attacks on the Yugoslav People's Army, obviously planned in one center, have the aim of creating the impression among the Albanians that the Army is their enemy. The Army's Yugoslav orientation represents the greatest danger to the separatist aims that the leaders of Albanian separatists are openly presenting. Calls for Albanians to not do their military service in the Yugoslav People's Army should also be understood in this light. The stories about the increasingly frequent suicides by soldiers is only an excuse for this anti-Yugoslav maneuver by Albanian separatists.

Paramilitary Groups Surrender Arms

LD1901165391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1511 GMT 19 Jan 91

[Text] Belgrade, 19 Jan (TANJUG)—The SFRY presidency order on the disbanding of paramilitary armed units is being implemented in Kosovo. Individuals, in possession of various arms that they have no legal certificates for, are returning their weapons to the authorities. For example, TANJUG has learned from reliable sources that one Albanian citizen returned a whole bundle of hand grenades—16 of them. A certain number of guns, automatic rifles, machine guns, and even hunting weapons have already been returned.

The authorities have been told that the return of arms was scheduled today in Djakovica, Podujevo, Istok, Titova Mitrovica, Glogovac and some other places in the province. Otherwise, the 10-day deadline for the return of arms expires midnight tonight.

Sources: Arms Not Being Returned

AU1801181491 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1400 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Milivoje Mihajlovic report]

[Text] Although there are no official figures, everything indicates that arms are not being returned in Kosovo and Metohija. Milivoje Mihajlovic reports:

[Mihajlovic] It is impossible to get any information from the military commands in the province on whether citizens in Kosovo and Metohija are returning arms in conformity with the order of the SFRY Presidency. Well-informed sources, however, claim that arms are not being returned.

The leaders of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo, the largest party of Albanians, stated at a news conference today that the SFRY Presidency order on returning arms made the difficult situation in the province even worse. They drew the attention of the country's leadership to

what they called the danger of possible action similar to the action taken in 1956, when arms were also collected in the province, and claimed that this could have unforeseeable consequences in the present situation.

Jusuf Buxhovi, secretary of the Democratic Alliance of Kosovo, pointed out to journalists that his party thinks that Albanians, like other citizens, should also carry out their obligations to the Yugoslav People's Army, but it advocates that the causes of the cases of soldiers committing suicide should be analyzed.

Peterle: Order 'Does Not Apply' to Slovenia

LD1801153591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1348 GMT 18 Jan 91

[Text] Ljubljana, 18 Jan (TANJUG)—"There are no units in Slovenia that qualify according to the formulation of the order of the SFRY Presidency on the return of weapons, and therefore there is no return of weapons taking place in Slovenia," Lojze Peterle, president of the Executive Council of the Slovene Assembly, stated today at a news conference following talks with Federal Executive Council President Ante Markovic.

Peterle said that the SFRY Presidenjcy order does not apply to the territory of Slovenia and stressed that no particular events in this connection are expected.

The order does not apply to the Slovene Territorial Defense, which is a legal institution, Peterle stressed

Macedonia Proposes Sovereignty Declaration

LD2101183991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1712 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Skopje, Jan 21 (TANJUG)—The committee for constitutional affairs of the Assembly of the Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia today decided to submit to the republican legislature a declaraion of Macedonia's sovereignty.

The committee will also propose to the republican parliament to adopt a separate political statement that would, just as the declaration, "ensure the equal position of Macedonia in the talks on the future of Yugoslavia."

A declaration of the sovereignty of the Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia was adopted in the middle of last year. No such document has been adopted by the other Yugoslav republics.

Bosnia-Hercegovina Seeks Suspension of Disarming

LD2101201991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1917 GMT 21 Jan 91

[Text] Sarajevo, January 21 (TANJUG)—The leadership of the Yugoslav Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina on Monday asked that the disarming of para-military and illegal formations in the country be suspended until authorized organs give an authentic interpretation of the Yugoslav State Presidency order on the basis of which the disarming is being carried out.

The Yugoslav collective head of state, as the commander of the armed forces, issued the order on January 9. The Republic of Croatia asked on Saturday that the deadline for the order to be carried out be extended until midnight tonight.

The leadership of Bosnia-Hercegovina said it supported the Federal Presidency's order, but pointed out that there were different interpretations of para-military and illegal units. In such a situation, a hasty implementation of the order could have disastrous consequences in the whole country.

The leadership suggested that the implementation of the order be postponed and that the state presidency urgently hold talks with the leaderships of the republics of Slovenia and Croatia.

It is believed in Sarajevo that the order about the disarming of para-military units concerns primarily the republics of Slovenia and Croatia which have formed independent and autonomous territorial defence units and special police units, contrary to the provisions of the federal constitution.

However, the authorities in the two republics say the order does not relate to them.

Croatian President Franjo Tudjman told reporters in Sarajevo on Monday (where he had talks with the leadership of Bosnia-Hercegovina) that the Croatian police are armed legally, on the basis on the republican constitution, and that only illegally armed individuals should be disarmed.

Asked about what would happen if the army intervened, Tudjman said that the police and the Croatian people would confront it. He added that in that case, the consequences would be disastrous.

Ranking Slovenian official Dusan Plut said on Slovenian radio on Monday that there were no para-military units in the republic and that there was no reason for a military intervention.

The presidency's order has so far only been implemented by Serbs in Croatia, who last summer did not let Croatian special units take away legal weapons from local police stations and which they thus had confiscated.